



November 2022

An Invitation from Bishop Benfield

Advent, Piece by Piece

Advent is a time to prepare, not simply for the birth of a baby who would be named Jesus, but to prepare to see the many ways that the risen Christ will show up in our lives. As an Advent hymn reminds us, “He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure.” Given the enormous challenges we have been facing, this Advent let’s remember some of the ways Christ shows up, not only in family and friends, but also in the people who serve our communities. Front line workers, for example, have been important to so many people.

We have noticed that the Lego City Advent Calendar has become a popular Advent tradition outside the church, so why not use it to tell our own story? This year we have created prayers for each of the twenty-four days of this Advent calendar. Each prayer coincides on that day’s Lego figure and is a way for you and your family to observe Advent and give thanks for people who, often unknowingly, serve as representatives of the risen Christ who mend broken hearts, help return people to health, and make us ever more aware of the love of God.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry R. Benfield".

Larry R. Benfield
Bishop of Arkansas

The Lego Advent Calendar can be found online and in most department stores under the name Lego City Advent Calendar #60352. This set typically sells out by Thanksgiving. The calendar and the prayers both start on December 1 and go through Christmas Eve.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Print on heavyweight paper or cardstock, on one side only.
2. Cut along the dotted lines to get six individual cards per sheet.
3. Fold each card in half lengthwise to get a standing 'tent' with the prayer facing out.



DAY 1

We pray for all emergency medical teams, that they may swiftly and safely carry those who are sick.



DAY 2

God, be with those who work in offices this season, that they might feel our gratitude for their service.



DAY 3

We thank you for drivers who deliver packages and services, and pray for their safety.



DAY 4

We thank you for musicians who fill our holiday with joyful music.



DAY 5

We thank you for train engineers who transport our friends and neighbors.



DAY 6

We thank you for people who serve at food kitchens for the hungry this season.



DAY 7

We thank you for the cooks in our lives who nourish and comfort us with food.



DAY 8

We thank you for the restaurant workers who work this holiday season.



DAY 9

We thank you for the veterinarians and animal control workers who care for animals.



DAY 10

Thank you God for the wonderful diversity of people around us.



DAY 11

God, be with those who work to keep our cities safe and clean, that they might know your peace.



DAY 12

God, we thank you for fun times in the winter with friends and family.



DAY 13

God, thank you for winter traditions that we share with friends and families.



DAY 14

We pray that we might be better helpers this season as we prepare for Christmas.



DAY 15

We thank you for the farmers who provide so much of what we enjoy this season.



DAY 16

We thank you for times to enjoy the holiday with our neighborhood.



DAY 17

God, we thank you for special times with family surrounded by holiday decorations.



DAY 18

We thank you for the gift of our creativity and ask for blessings on all who work with their hands.

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DAY 19

We thank you for grocery workers who stock shelves with holiday foods for us.

+ Episcopal Arkansas



DAY 20

We thank you for firefighters who help us in times of crisis.

+ Episcopal Arkansas



DAY 21

We pray for those who work in our city to light our roadways and make our cities safe.

+ Episcopal Arkansas



DAY 22

We are thankful for the animals that are in our lives.

+ Episcopal Arkansas



DAY 23

We give thanks for the celebrations that are soon to happen.

+ Episcopal Arkansas



DAY 24

We remember St. Nicholas and look forward to Christmas.