

Advent in Narnia

Week	Text	Theme	Other
Advent 1	Isaiah 2:1–5	War and a Wardrobe (Chapters 1–2)	Advent Candle: HOPE Communion
<p>C. S. Lewis writes this story against the backdrop of war. Little children shipped to the North of England, away from London bombings. Imagine the Pevensie children’s fear and powerlessness, but also the power of a story like this to restore their hope.</p> <p>Isaiah 2:1–5 is also a text of hope against the backdrop of war. One is coming who will “judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”</p> <p>Worship Ideas: “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (Canticle of the Turning)” Cooney, GtG 100, LUYH 69, PfAS 75B</p>			
Saturday	Narnia Night		
Advent 2	Luke 1:26–56	Wonder (Chapters 3–5)	Advent Candle: JOY
<p>When Lucy returns from the wardrobe world of Narnia, her siblings won’t believe her. It’s hard to blame them. What a strange world she describes. It hardly seems possible to children like Susan and Peter, who are working so hard to be grown up. So, in chapter 5, they approach the Professor, who surprises them by upending their certainty with possibility and with wonder.</p> <p>Two thousand years before, a girl not much older than Susan wondered, “How can this be?” The truest things are not always the most probable. Salvation comes in extraordinary ways.</p> <p>Worship Ideas: “Imagine” Getty, LUYH 72</p>			

Advent 3	Isaiah 35 Matthew 3:1–12	Father Christmas' Gifts (Chapters 6–10)	Advent Candle: LOVE
<p>A thaw has come to Narnia and, with it comes a forerunner of Aslan: Father Christmas bringing gifts to all the Narnian animals, the Sons of Adam, and the Daughters of Eve. The gifts he brings are meant to prepare the Pevensie children for the hard work of following Aslan, who is coming.</p> <p>Isaiah 35 tells us the story of a spring thaw too. Meanwhile, we remember that Christ also had a forerunner in his cousin, John the Baptizer. And in baptism we receive the gifts we need to follow Christ, who is coming.</p> <p>Worship Ideas:</p>			
Advent 4	<p>Longest Night Service “Always Winter, Never Christmas”</p>		
Christmas Eve (morning)	Isaiah 9:1–7	Awaiting Aslan (Chapters 11–15)	Lessons & Carols Advent Candle: PEACE
<p>The whole of Advent is this: Waiting the birth of the Christ child in the same way we wait for the return of Christ's Kingdom. The whole of <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> covers the same: waiting for Aslan and waiting for the triumph of Narnia. So there are many places within both stories to draw Lessons and Carols source material.</p> <p>When the Pevensie children hear Aslan's name for the first time it does different things in each of them, revealing their heart's truest needs. The names of Christ—“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”—do a similar work in us.</p> <p>Worship Ideas:</p>			
Christmas Eve	Matthew 3:1–12	“Us Lions” (Chapters 16–17)	CHRIST CANDLE Candlelight Communion
<p>There is a wonderful scene in chapter 16 of <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> in which Aslan is instructing all the Narnian creatures where they will go and what they will do in the battle with the White Witch. He says, “those who are good with their noses</p>			

must come in front with us lions to smell out where the battle is.” A recently de-petrified lion bounds in and among the other warriors exclaiming, “Us Lions. That’s what I like about Aslan. No side, no stand-off-ishness. Us Lions. That meant him and me.”

In this we hear again the good news of the incarnation. That God does not declare humanity too broken or earth too dirty. Nothing is beneath him. God, in Christ, came to Earth so that he might also declare, “Us Humans.” This is the miracle we celebrate on Christmas Eve: God has become one of us humans.

Worship Ideas:

New Year’s Eve	Malachi 3:1-4 Romans 13:8-14	Concerning Edmund	New Year/Old Year
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Among all the Pevensie children, Edmund is unique. He is duped by the White Witch, enslaved by her promises and judicious giftings of Turkish delight. He struggles to know what is true. He turns on his siblings and endangers all of Narnia. And then he is found, redeemed, and returned to service as a soon-to-be-King of Narnia.

At this time of year, when we set aside what we have been and work to set new patterns and habits for the new year, Edmund’s story might inspire all of us to seek forgiveness, redemption, and new work as a part of Christ’s kingdom.

Worship Ideas:

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