



November 2021

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 #60303. This set typically sells out by Thanksgiving. The calendar and the prayers both start on December 1 and go through Christmas Eve.



DAY 1

God, we remember those today who drive us and those who live around us and ask that they feel your peace.



DAY 2

God, be with those who work in city offices this season, that they might find joy in their service.



DAY 3

We pray for the postal workers who delivers our messages to loved ones throughout the holidays.



DAY 4

We pray for the ambulances drivers, that they may swiftly and safely carry those who are sick.



DAY 5

We thank you for our police officers who keep us safe in times of trouble.



DAY 6

We ask for peace and mercy for all those who work in the justice system.



DAY 7

We thank you for friends to enjoy winter sports and games with.



DAY 8

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



DAY 9

We ask for safe travel for all those visiting family for the holidays.



DAY 10

We ask for peace for medical workers, who have had a very tough and trying year.



DAY 11

We pray for safety for pilots, that they might safely arrive at their destinations.



DAY 12

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



DAY 13

God, thank you for meals with friends and family around the holiday table.



DAY 14

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



DAY 15

We pray for fire stations, that they may be places of peace for all who serve there.



DAY 16

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



DAY 17

We pray for those who manage and lead, that they serve with a generous heart.



DAY 18

We thank you for the ability to create and work with our hands, and we ask for blessings on all who do.



DAY 19

We pray for the safety of construction workers who work on our roads and building.



DAY 20

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



DAY 21

We thank you for the many Christmas traditions, and we look forward to sharing them with others.



DAY 22

We thank you for train conductors who transport our friends and neighbors where they need to go.



DAY 23

We thank you for the many blessings in our life and remember that it is better to give than receive.



DAY 24

We remember St. Nicholas and look forward to our own special Christmas celebrations.