

# A WEEK OF ADVENT PRAYER: RECEIVE AND WORSHIP

**SHEPHERDS. ANGELS. WISE MEN.** The Christmas story widens out to include characters that are at once familiar to us. They received the news of Jesus' birth and were drawn to worship the child. Read along and pray through their encounters with the Son of God.

**01**

In Luke 2:8, the scene is set: ordinary workers, shepherds, tending sheep on an ordinary night. All at once, a disruption comes and they are "terrified" (Luke 2:9). What is causing disruption for you right now? How is God loving you in those disruptions?

**02**

The angel tells the shepherds, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10). How is the coming of Jesus good news for you today?

**03**

Having received the angels' good news, the shepherds act, saying, "Let us go to Bethlehem" (Luke 2:15). What step of response to the news of God's coming can you take today?

**04**

The Magi, or wise men, see a sign in the heavens and seek to worship a Messiah they do not yet know (Matthew 2:2). Pray today for unreached people, that they will receive revelation of God's salvation.

**05**

The Magi present Jesus and his family with gifts worthy of a king (Matthew 2:11). How can you honor Jesus as the King of kings, here and now, on earth as in heaven?

**06**

The Magi are sensitive to God's leading and, out of obedience, don't return to Herod (Matthew 2:12). Their decision helps to save Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Pray for those in danger or trouble today, that God will guide and protect them.

**07**

What stood out to you as you journeyed to Jesus with the shepherds and Magi? What can you carry forward into the season of Advent?



*On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.*

—MATTHEW 2:11a, NIV

