



November 2023

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." This Advent, let's remember some of the ways Christ shows up, in our families and friends, and also in the people who serve our communities.

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,

Larry R. Benfield

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

Bishop of Arkansas

*The Lego Advent Calendar can be found online and in most department stores under the name Lego City 2023 Advent Calendar #60381. This set typically sells out by Thanksgiving. The calendar and the prayers both start on December 1 and go through Christmas Eve.*

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### **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 a safe and fun Advent season.



**Day 2**

We remember and give thanks for those things that point us toward Christmas.



**Day 3**

We thank you for the animals in the fields and the farmers who take care of them.



**Day 4**

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



**Day 5**

We give thanks for our bodies and ask you to keep us safe and strong.



**Day 6**

We thank you for the gift of our creativity and the works of art in our lives.



**Day 7**

We thank you for the artists who have created beautiful art around us.



**Day 8**

We pray for those who work to light our roads and make our cities safe.



**Day 9**

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



**Day 10**

We thank you for the homes that keep us safe and where we feel loved.



**Day 11**

Help us to remember to find times to play and rest this Advent.



**Day 12**

Be with us as we do our homework and pursue our education.



**Day 13**

Help us find a space at home where we are comfortable and feel loved.



**Day 14**

Thank you for the bakers in our lives who fill us with holiday cookies.



**Day 15**

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



**Day 16**

Be with us as we pause and remember past holidays with those we love.



**Day 17**

Thank you for the wonderful trees and Christmas decorations that surround us.



**Day 18**

Thank you for the gifts we receive during the holidays.



**Day 19**

God, we thank you for special times with family around the table.



**Day 20**

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



**Day 21**

Be with us as we grow and make new traditions and memories.



**Day 22**

We thank you for the Christmas traditions and stories that we tell.



**Day 23**

As we near Christmas, we thank you for the celebrations that are about to happen.



**Day 24**

We take time today to remember St Nicholas and look forward to Christmas.