

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

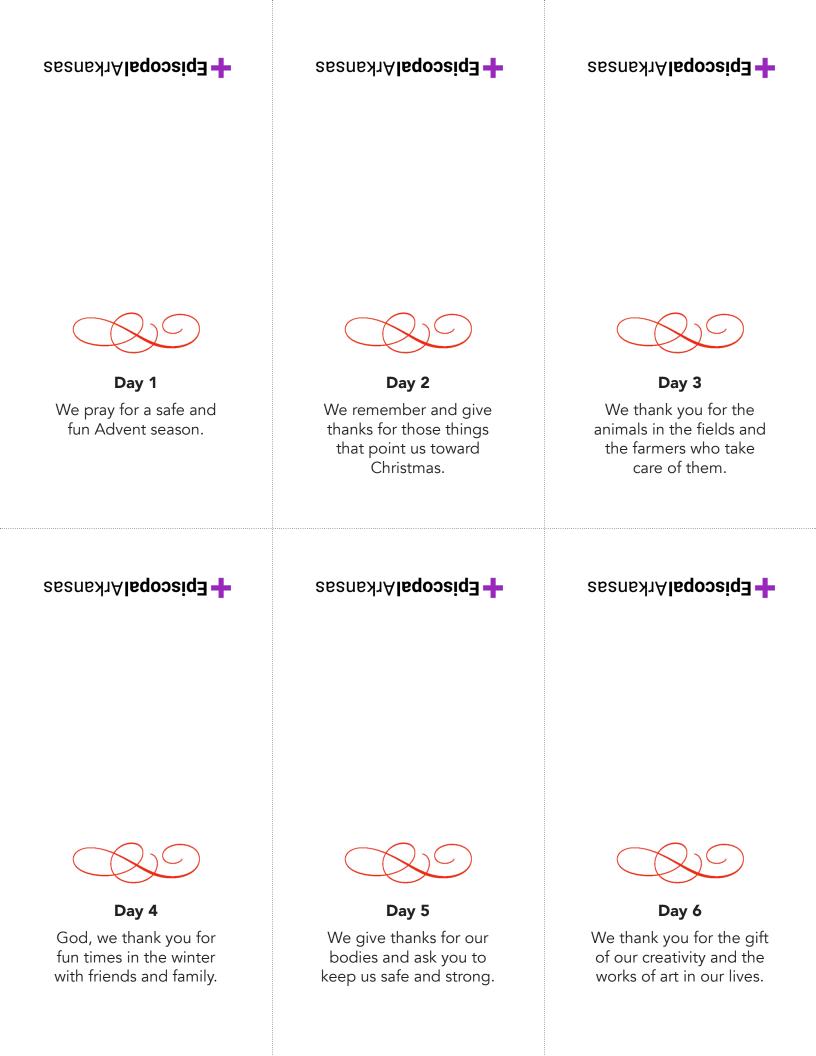
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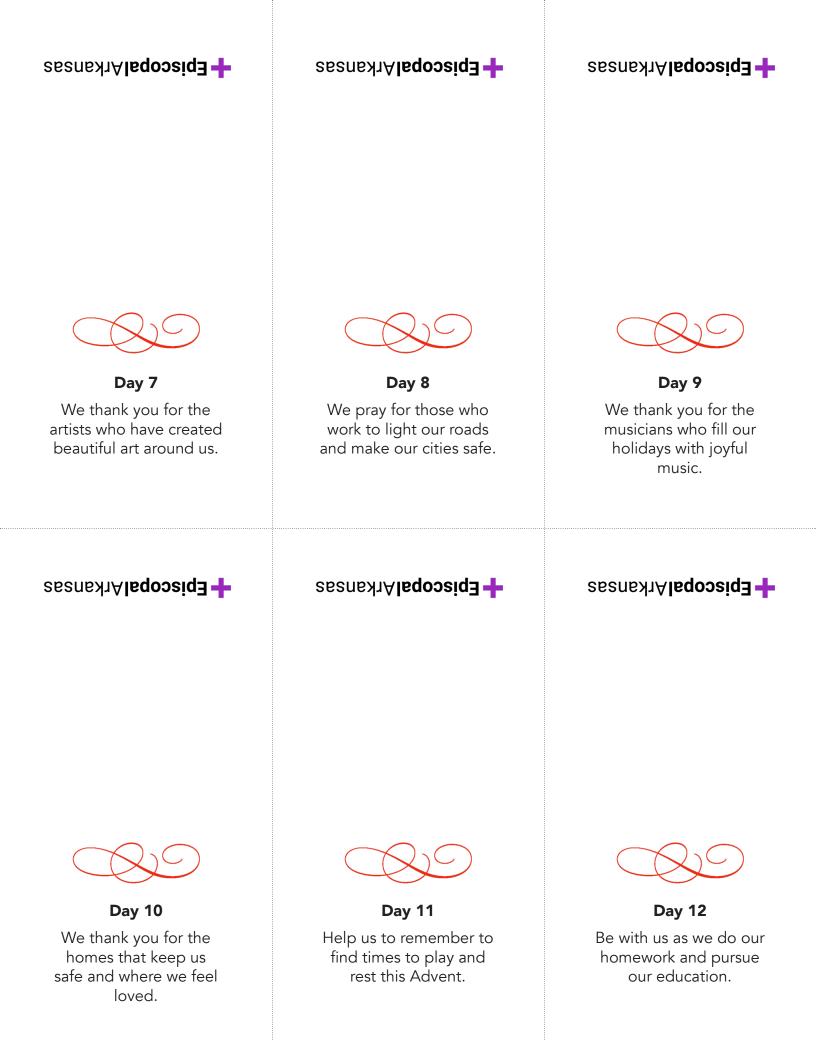
Bishop of Arkansas

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.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

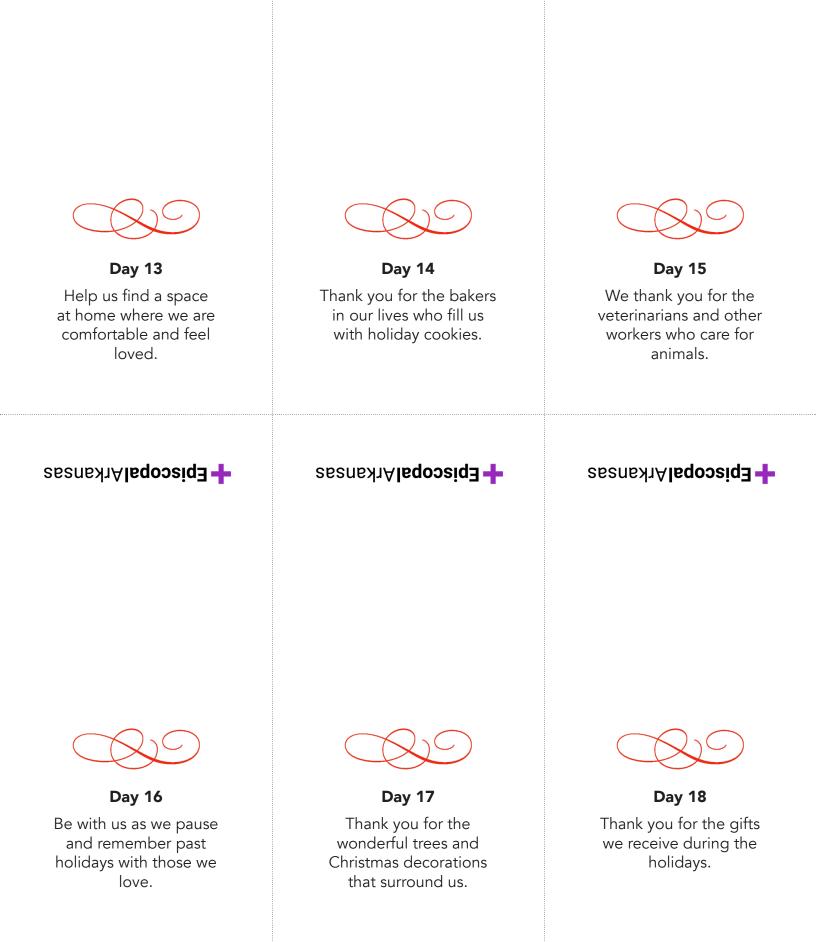
- 1. Print on heavyweight paper or cardstock, on one side only.
- 2. Cut along the dotted lines to get six individual cards per sheet.
- 3. Fold each card in half lengthwise to get a standing 'tent' with the prayer facing out.

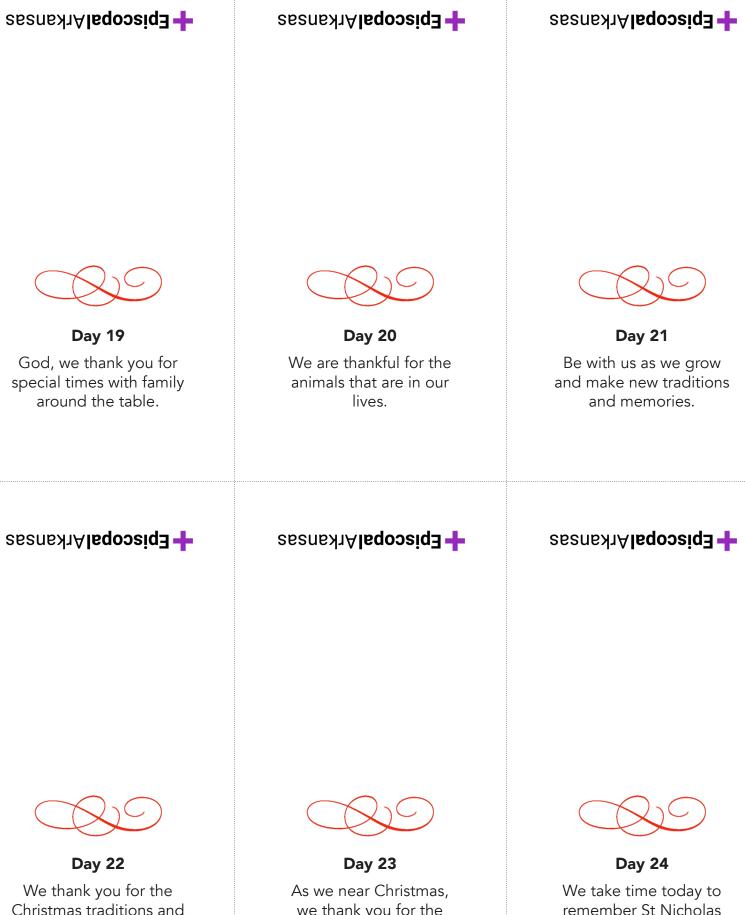












Christmas traditions and stories that we tell.

we thank you for the celebrations that are

about to happen.

and look forward to

Christmas.