

A person is walking through a doorway, which is brightly lit from within, creating a strong red glow. The person is silhouetted against the light. The rest of the scene is dark, with the red light reflecting on the surrounding surfaces.

STEPPING THROUGH CHRISTMAS

Stepping Through Christmas, Advent 2026

Stepping through Christ into a new reality made possible through Christmas

A Five Week Advent Devotional on the Heart of Christ

An Advent calendar is famous for its doors. Every day we approach one, full of curiosity, wondering what is hidden on the other side. But in the spiritual life, a door is more than a countdown — it's a threshold to a new life...

Think of C.S. Lewis's famous wardrobe: a confined, dusty space that suddenly opens into a vast new world where the cold winter of life is melting away and green shoots of hope are emerging. To stand before a closed door is to live in expectancy. We wait, we listen for a key in the lock, and we watch for the sliver of light underneath. This Christmas what doorsteps are we waiting on? What knocks are we listening out for? Have we got our shoes on? Are we ready to go on an adventure into new life with God?

Are we ready to step through...?

We often think of Jesus knocking on our door simply so we can invite him in, bringing him into our small confined spaces. But the true heart of Christmas is the reverse: Jesus knocks at our door so that we might go out, that we might walk *through Him*— into His heart, His life, and His understanding. Through Christ the great adventure of life is possible. Every Christmas we remember once again how Jesus makes a way for us.

This Advent, let's keep the doors open! Let's examine the doors of our hearts, the doors to our histories, and to our futures. Let's step out of the darkness and into a brand-new reality, made possible through Christmas!

There's a knock at the door! Let's go!

Week 1	The Doorstep, Preparing the Threshold		This week, we explore what it means to wait at the entrance of Christmas, to clear the spiritual clutter, and prepare our lives for a holy arrival. Advent is an ancient tradition that uses the Bible to examine our lives, both as individuals and as communities, so that we may be prepared for the future God is unlocking. What are we expecting from this Advent? What doorways are we preparing to go through? What is the clutter we need to clear out of the way?
29/11/2026	Prepare the Way	Isaiah 40: 1-5	We stand once again at the doorway of Advent. This year we don't want to be simply stepping 'into' Christmas but rather 'through' Christmas to the open road of adventure that is waiting for us on the other side! Standing on the threshold of the season, what are you going through and where are you headed?
30/11/2026	The Door of the Heart	Genesis 4: 7	The threshold, the doorway, the point of decision, can be a place of spiritual battle and self-awareness. Christmas uncovers unresolved conflicts, reminding us of Paul's cry in <i>Romans 7:19</i> : "For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing." Through Christ's love we can own our decisions rather than our decisions owning us. What does freedom look like to you this Christmas?
01/12/2026	The Ancient Gates	Psalm 24: 7-10	Awakening the long-forgotten, closed doors of our lives to welcome the King of Glory, finding the joy of returning to our first love (see <i>Revelation 2: 4-5</i>). Advent can be a complicated time for us emotionally, as memories are brought to bear - what are our 'first loves' from Christmas we can rediscover as we open the doors of our hearts once again?
02/12/2026	The Doorkeeper	Psalm 84: 10	Finding greater joy simply standing on the doorstep of God's presence than living comfortably away from Him (<i>1 Timothy 6:6</i>). We get sold a lot of ideas about what it is to be content at this time of year! What does true contentment look like to you this Christmas?
03/12/2026	Waiting at the Posts	Proverbs 8: 34-35	The daily practice of watching and waiting at Wisdom's doorway, learning to abide in Christ (<i>John 15:4</i>). What clutter and distractions do we need to clear away so that we can listen to God more clearly?
04/12/2026	The Gathered Crowd	Mark 1: 32-34	The whole town gathering at a doorstep, desperate to see Jesus heal, echoing the boundless capability of grace in <i>Ephesians 3:20-21</i> . What are our prayers for God's healing and power this Advent?
05/12/2026	The Judge at the Door	James 5: 9	Recognising that God's presence is incredibly close, right on the threshold of our reality(see <i>Matthew 1: 21-23</i>). Christmas isn't all cosiness! This vivid new reality as heaven touches earth! Does Christmas make us more complacent or more searching in our lives and faith?

Week 2	The Knock — Responding to the Invitation	This week focuses on the sound of the knock, the vulnerability of God asking to enter, and our personal response. God doesn't operate through coercion but instead invites us into freedom through unconditional love — moving out of isolation and into fellowship and communion.	
06/12/2026	An Unexpected Visitor	Luke 1: 26-38	An angel appears with an invitation to adventure and wonder, compassion and glory. Mary is caught off guard, but she listens and responds with all her heart. Christmas can be full of festive invitations to events and shopping sprees. But are we keeping our ears open for the knock at the door to the last-minute adventures God could be calling us to?
07/12/2026	The Midnight Knocker	Luke 11: 5-10	The power of bold, persistent knocking in prayer and the promise that the door will open. What are we persistently taking to God's door this Christmas?
08/12/2026	Ready for the Master	Luke 12: 35-38	Living with lamps burning, ready to open the door the second He knocks. Are you ready for Christmas? And we're not talking about your fridge, or your gift list, or the work's night out. Are you ready to meet Christ again? How do you prepare for that?
09/12/2026	The Unexpected Answer	Acts 12: 12-16	Peter knocks after escaping prison, but the believers are too shocked by the answered prayer to let him in. Sometimes we miss the knock because we're distracted, the festive tunes are blaring, the oven timer beeping with pigs-in-blankets. Sometimes we miss the knock because we're overwhelmed, it feels too much, we don't want to let anything else in. What keeps a community responding to Jesus quickly and receptively.
10/12/2026	The Ultimate Knock	Revelation 3: 19-21	Jesus stood outside a wealthy, comfortable church, asking for simple tabletop fellowship... In our churches are we listening to knock of Jesus today?
11/12/2026	The Unopened Door	John 1: 11-13	Confronting the tragedy of a world not recognising, or opening up to, the One who created it. Jesus doesn't just knock on the door of Christians — but to any who might receive him. Do we realise we don't have a monopoly on Jesus?
12/12/2026	The Feet on the Doorstep	Romans 10:12-15	Celebrating how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news to the door! Have we got our shoes on?! Are we ready to get our beautiful feet shod and share the good news this Christmas?

Week 3	Jesus is the Door, The "I Am" Dimension		This week reveals the great Christmas twist : Jesus doesn't just walk through the doorway — He himself IS the doorway – he is the entryway to new life with God. He is the wardrobe door leading from a cold, confined survival space into a vast new vibrant world.
13/12/2026	Step On Through	Matthew 1: 18-25	Joseph thinks he is facing a brick wall. There's no way through. Then an angel comes to him in a dream and shows him how to find a door – there is life and wonder on the other side, he can trust, he can step on through. What are the impassable walls we are facing and how could Jesus be preparing a door for us? So that we don't go around the problem, but go 'through it' to the other side?
14/12/2026	The Shepherd and the Gate	John 10: 1-6	Discerning the true way to spiritual safety versus the false routes of thieves. Christmas is a big part of the 'attention economy' for businesses jostling for our clicks. Attention is finite and brands compete fiercely to make the most memorable, talked-about, adverts. But in Jesus' grace economy his attention is infinite — the good shepherd has time for each and every one of us. How does it feel to be the centre of Jesus's attention?
15/12/2026	The "I Am" Door	John 10: 7-10	Entering through the Jesus Door to find pasture, freedom, and a life full to the brim. This year, as we step through Christmas, what are the wide open pastures on the other side of new life and renewal we long to see?
16/12/2026	A Singular Portal	John 14: 1-6	Jesus explains that He is the Way — the singular door connecting human reality to the Father. For us this Christmas are we living like Jesus is 'the way' or like Jesus is 'in the way'?
17/12/2026	The Narrow Gate	Matthew 7: 13-14	Choosing the small, unpretentious door of Christ over the wide, crowded entrance of the world. It is easy to sleepwalk through Christmas. We find ourselves stumbling through automatic doors to shiny cathedral-malls that welcome the faithful with 10% off in store. Where are the smaller doors we are missing that Christ is inviting us to knock on?
18/12/2026	The Door of Faith	Acts 14: 21-28	Celebrating how God opened a door of faith to the entire world. What are our stories of doors opening this Christmas?
19/12/2026	A Door for the Message	Colossians 4: 3-4	Praying for open doors to speak the mystery of Christ clearly. What are our prayers for clarity and openness about our faith this Christmas?

Week 4	Stepping Through — Leaving the Darkness Behind		This week we step across the threshold and into new life with Christ. The frost of our old life is melting and new green shoots are emerging. When we step <i>through</i> Christmas we step past the cold shadows of the past and into a changed heart and new life – like the cupboard door to Narnia opening us up to a whole new reality!
20/12/2026	The Great Light	Isaiah 9: 2-4	The definitive Christmas prophecy of a people walking out of deep shadows into brilliant light. Imagine going through C.S. Lewis' dark wardrobe and stepping into the bright light of Narnia. What does this great light mean to our individual lives this Christmas?
21/12/2026	Gates Open Continually	Isaiah 60: 11	A vision of a future where your doors never need to be shut against fear, day or night. What doors in our society have been long shut to keep people out, that could be opened this Christmas to let people in? Consider the Shepherds who were professional outsiders (Luke 2: 8) brought into the heart of the story.
22/12/2026	The Dawn Breaks	Matthew 4: 13-17	Jesus stepping into dark regions, signalling it is time to cross over. How can we bring home the reality of the Kingdom of God drawing near to our friends and family this Christmas? (Check out Luke 2:34-35 too.)
23/12/2026	Stepping Through Together	Luke 1: 38-59	Mary and Elizabeth are stepping into new chapters of their lives together. Elizabeth hears Mary with the ears of the Holy Spirit. She and her unborn baby recognise whom it is they are welcoming – with whom they are adventuring. Who do you need to listen to closely this Christmas season? With the ears of the Holy Spirit?
24/12/2026	Called Out	1 Peter 2: 4-10	We have been called out of the shadows and through His marvellous doorway to the light. We are called to become a new kind of people. A diverse range of interlocking stones of all kinds of shapes and sizes that come together to make a home for God! Who are the 'living stones' alongside us who we are especially grateful for this Christmas Eve?
25/12/2026	Through a manger a door opens for the entire world	Luke 2:1-7	And so it came to pass that Jesus Christ was born among us, with us – for us! Let us remember today this crucial moment — the turning point in all of history! What is our Christmas prayer today for all people to know how Christ loves them.
26/12/2026	Shepherds running!	Luke 2: 8-20	Good news is electric! It galvanises the shepherds like nothing else! Is the Good News of Christ still electric for us? Does it still make us leap up? To see for ourselves? And just want to tell someone about it?

Week 5	The New Creation Reality — Heaven Coming to Earth		Using the insights of Tom Wright, this final week shifts our focus from "escaping to heaven" to God's grand design of New Creation. "Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about." (Tom Wright, Surprised by Hope) Eternal life and resurrection life start right now when the Spirit awakens our hearts. Our ultimate home is a renewed universe where God dwells with us. The adventure of new life with Christ doesn't start in heaven – it starts right now on earth!
27/12/2026	Encountering Heaven, a New Adventure	Matthew 2: 1-12	When the Magi encounter Jesus their life is changed. Their adventure doesn't end, it's just getting started! When they travel home they travel literally and metaphorically on another road. This year what are the new roads you are travelling with Jesus, both literally and metaphorically?
28/12/2026	Following the Light	John 8: 12-20	Following Jesus means leaving the dark hallway of survival behind and feeling the warmth of Christ's light, the very light of heaven, on our skin. This light illuminates the present but it also gives us a sense of where we have come from and where we are going. Where do you need Christ's light to shine in your life to show you the path ahead?
29/12/2026	Making a Home	John 14: 23-27	The breathtaking promise that when we love Christ, the Father and Son don't just give us a ticket for the future — they come and make their permanent residence <i>inside us right now</i> through the Spirit. How can you make the Trinity feel at home with you?!
30/12/2026	No Longer Strangers	Ephesians 2: 19-22	Realising that through Christ, we are living stones in a holy temple — the place where heaven and earth overlap in community, signalling God's incoming kingdom on earth. How can our transformed relationships with others in this new year bring heaven to earth through the Holy Spirit?
31/12/2026	The Door Standing Open	Romans 8: 38-39	We close the year with a vision of a door standing wide open between heaven and earth. Through Christ's resurrection, the barrier is permanently removed, inviting us to live with open access to God's throne room right now. Sometimes we bring a lot of burdens and obstacles with us that we think must get between us and God. This Hogmanay what are the things we are letting go of, that we realise are no longer holding us back?
01/01/2027	The Ultimate Home	Revelation 21 :1-4	The climax of the Bible is not us floating up to heaven, <i>but God moving His home down to earth</i> . The new heaven and new earth arrive, wiping away tears and starting a brand-new physical dimension of existence. At the very start of this New Year how will this picture of a renewed creation inspire us to contribute to its renewal here and now?

Note: The final day is on the next page...

02/01/2027	The City with Open Gates	Revelation 21: 22–27	The final picture of the New Jerusalem; its gates are <i>never closed</i> because fear, darkness, and night have been banished, and the nations walk freely in the light of God's fully restored creation. On the one hand this is a far-off vision, but on the other we are connected to it in the here and now, when we go on the adventure of new life with Jesus Christ in the present. Reflect on this quote from Tom Wright: “What you do in the present — by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbour as yourself — all these things <i>will last into God's future</i>. They are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day we leave it behind altogether... They are part of what we may call <i>building for God's kingdom</i>.”
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Closing thought:

When we think of Christmas, we often think of a baby born to rescue us from earth so we can eventually go up to heaven. But the scriptural reality — and the true heartbeat of the Incarnation — is that God in Christ came down to **us**. Resurrection life starts the moment the Spirit opens our hearts. We aren't just practicing a countdown to a holiday; we are practicing living as 'resurrection people' in a world God is actively redeeming. The door is wide open. Heaven is meeting earth. What does it look like for you to live out that new creation reality today?