

This weekly Advent resource from Community Missions is a companion for your journey toward Christmas. Each week includes a short Bible passage, a reflection, simple daily practices, and a coloring page—all free to use and share. Visit [HopeForNiagara.org](http://HopeForNiagara.org) to download the 11x17 single-page or 8.5x11 three-page version, plus other helpful Advent resources. **Share your finished coloring page at [Facebook.com/cminiagara](https://www.facebook.com/cminiagara)!**

## Christmas Day

### Text for Today: Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 2:1-20



**Isaiah 9:6-7:** *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end... with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever...*

**Luke 2:1-14:** *In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... And everyone went to their own town to register... [Joseph] went [to Bethlehem] to register with Mary, who was... expecting a child. While they were there... she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and... said..., "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great... heavenly host appeared ... saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ... So [the shepherds] hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.... They spread the word ... and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said.... But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*



#### A Summary of the Text:

Isaiah tells of a promised "Prince of Peace" who will establish justice and righteousness forever. Although the expectation was for a great ruler who would accomplish these things, Luke tells us that God kept this promise in the most unexpected way. The "Prince of Peace" arrives as a baby in a manger, born to a couple with no place to stay that night. The parents of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, were just ordinary people, *not* royalty or wealthy people—not powerful people. What is more, even the announcement of the birth of the Messiah, the savior of humanity, was not made to powerful people. Instead, God's messengers came to ordinary people doing ordinary work: shepherds tending their flocks at night. The angel's good news about "great joy for all the people" was not just for the powerful, but for all people.



Share your finished coloring page at [Facebook.com/cminiagara](https://www.facebook.com/cminiagara) ! (December 25)

