

# The Coming King: Everlasting Father

## The Third Sunday of Advent

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."  
Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."

John 14:8-9a (NIV)

The Trinity is a mystery beyond all mysteries. How can God the Father send God the Son to be born and live a human life while they are still one? It is mind-bending, and frankly, not something I ever expect to understand, much less to be capable of explaining to anyone. And so we have the Son called, in the prophesy, "Everlasting Father."

While Jesus demonstrates all the obedience of a good son, He also displays the attributes of a father: the Shepherd who protects His sheep, the Teacher who distills wisdom to His students, the Servant-Leader who sacrifices His life for those He loves. Jesus is not just the perfect Son; He is also the perfect Father. (Like I said, mind-bending.)

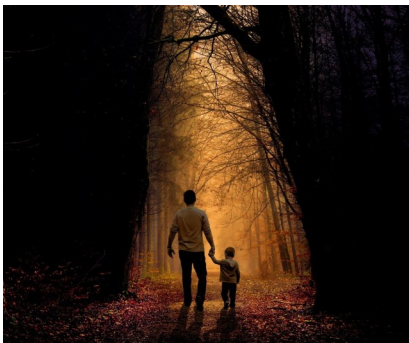
Not everyone has or had a good father; so not everyone sees fathers in a positive light. Yet if we can picture what a truly good father would be like... patient, strong, gentle, encouraging, consistent, playful but also firm in the kindest way. Think of the father running behind his child, holding the back of the bicycle as the child learns to ride, brushing off the dust after the bike turns over and the child tumbles off, encouraging the child to try again, and ultimately cheering as the child rides away. With that picture to work from, I think even those who had terrible fathers can see the value, the goodness, of the Everlasting Father.



And so the infant-King comes to us not only as the Wonderful Counselor who stands beside us and the Mighty God who goes before us, but also as the Everlasting Father who stands behind us.

As children of God, we have His ear and His heart. He is not just our father; He is our *Abba*, our Daddy, the one who plays peekaboo with us and holds our hand as we cross the dangerous streets of life and embraces us when we are heartbroken.

It's an awesome thing to realize that the Alpha and Omega is our also our dad. And yet, the Everlasting Father, the Coming King, loves each of us as if we were His only child, and stands waiting for us to run into His arms.



How has God been a father to you this week?

What can you do today to express to your love for your Everlasting Father?

## Exercise:

1. Find a comfortable place to sit or lie down. Be sure your position will not cause you to get stiff or cramped.
2. Commit this time to the Lord, asking him to quiet your mind and focus your heart on Him alone. (You may want to pray for God's protection of your mind and spirit during this time.)
3. Choose a word that symbolizes your sense of God as your Father. (Perhaps, "Abba" or "Daddy" or simply "Love.")
4. Set a timer for 10 minutes. Relax and breathe slowly. (Try not to fidget.)
5. Gently but firmly let go of words, thoughts (even thoughts about God), and concerns.
6. Silently repeat your prayer word until you feel yourself becoming more still and peaceful. You may find it easier to repeat your prayer word in rhythm with your breathing or picture yourself resting in God's arms or softly hum a worship song (as long as you don't find yourself getting distracted by the lyrics).
7. Distractions *will* arise; don't worry about them. When they come, let them go like leaves floating down a river. Let the current take the distractions away. Don't follow the distractions. Just let them flow away, and gently re-focus yourself, repeating your prayer word until you return to inner quiet.
8. As you feel yourself enter into stillness, allow God to do whatever He chooses to do or not to do—let Him be in control. He may speak, He may not. You may feel God's love, you may not. The goal is not to have some takeaway, but simply to be present to God and know He is with you.
9. When your timer goes off, slowly let yourself come out of the quietness, praying a short prayer of thanks.