



ST TIMOTHY 2025 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Long, long ago a prophecy and promise was made:

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land.”

Jeremiah 33:14-16

And, that prophecy was fulfilled:

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, which is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

This Advent season let us spend time reflecting on the prophecy and the fulfillment through daily reading and meditation using our...

2025 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Prepared BY and FOR the congregation of

ST. TIMOTHY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2025 Advent Devotional Authors

2025 Dates	2025 Writers	Scripture
Sunday 11/30	Paula Boegner	Deuteronomy 10:17
Mon. 12/1	Bob Taylor	Isaiah 9:6
Tues. 12/2	<u>Dave Kordt</u>	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Wed. 12/3	<u>Alice Gardner</u>	Isaiah 7:14
Thurs. 12/4	Kathey Turnbull	Micah 7:7
Fri. 12/5	Tracey Fukui	Mark 13:24-37
Sat. 12/6	Mike Baum	Romans 5:3-5
Sunday 12/7	<u>Linda Osborne</u>	Psalms 126
Mon. 12/8	Kathryn Radamis	Luke 1:26-33
Tues. 12/9	<u>Rick Dunn</u>	Isaiah 61:8-11
Wed. 12/10	Matt Johnson	Luke 1:34-38
Thurs. 12/11	<u>Jeanne Phillips</u>	2 Peter 3:8-10a
Fri. 12/12	Greg Kateff	Psalms 24:4-6
Sat. 12/13	Tina Puntigam	Isaiah 40:1-11
Sunday 12/14	Cassy Sautter	Mark 1:7-8
Mon. 12/15	Carol Prevost	Matthew 1:18-19
Tues. 12/16	<u>Dorothy Sanchez</u>	Luke 2:1, 3-5
Wed. 12/17	Randy Wright	Genesis 17:4-6
Thurs. 12/18	Karlane Belaire	Matthew 2:20-21, 25
Fri. 12/19	<u>Janet Richardson</u>	Matthew 1:22-23
Saturday, 23/20	<u>Tim Chanko</u>	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Sunday 12/21	<u>Joni Dunn</u>	Luke 2:6
Mon. 12/22	<u>Marty Johnson</u>	Romans 16:25-27
Tues. 12/23	Marlene Korne	Colossians 3:15-16
Wed. 12/24	Pastor Joel	Luke 2:8-19

Underlined names are legacy writers

Sunday, November 30, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: *Deuteronomy 10:17 (NIV)*

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.

Devotion:

Look around you. Daily we see the worship of material idols, false idols called celebrities, we choose priorities of our own making, we show partiality towards people who we identify with because they look/act/live like us. Certainly, bribery is such a common event to read about in politics these days that we have almost become immune to it. We just figure that it is part of the game of life.

Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary says that *by nature we do not love God.* Yes, you read that correctly. Earthly nature is against us! That part of our sinful nature fights against being subject to the law of God. And that is why we need constant reminders that He is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He has supreme authority and supreme character. God's justice is pure, and He deals justly and equally with all of mankind, not just who we (as mortals) "size up" to be acceptable in His sight. When we acquiesce to his command, we feel the freedom of serving Him and find happiness in that service.

Matthew Henry goes on to say *...consider the greatness and glory of God; and his goodness and grace; these persuade us to our duty. Blessed Spirit!*

Prayer:

Blessed Father, renew us that we may find fulfillment in following Your commands. Lead us into Your service that we might serve You without delay!

Paula K Boegner

Monday, December 1, 2025

SECOND DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: Isaiah 9-6

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Devotion:

Here we have the early prediction message about what was expected for the future of the Hebrews long before the reality of the wondrous gift which will be presented for the world. Oh, how long the world waited for the real arrival of Christs and additional wonder of the amazing total presentations to come. How long do each of us have to develop our personal understanding of this wonder and realize our opportunity of acceptance in full for our life, death and finding eternal life with God, Son, and Holy Spirit. I do look forward to the presence of the Holy Trinity when I am called home to find the forgiveness offered through Christ’s sacrifice for me and us all.

Prayer:

Dear Lord of all, I pray that we all truly accept your gift of salvation and help to spread awareness of the amazing opportunity offered by acceptance of the gift Christ has offered us. Enter our hearts and minds that we can fully believe and find true salvation. In the name of Jesus we pray.

Bob Taylor

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

THIRD DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way, in all your speaking and in all your knowledge because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Devotional:

Paul addresses the Christian residents of Corinth, encouraging them to be strong and patient as they await Jesus Christ.

In the present 20th century, we also need to be patient as we await the second coming of our Lord and Savior. We also need to encourage others to do the same.

Advent reminds us of the spiritual gifts we have, so we can minister to others. We are blessed! PASS IT ON!

Prayer:

Thank you, Lord. We are blessed in so many ways. Help us to minister, not only to those in need at St. Timothy, but to all those we encounter every day. Amen.

Dave Kordt

Wednesday, December 3, 2018

FOURTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: *Isaiah 7:14*

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.

Devotional:

God gave us many signs, such as the rainbow, the 10 plagues, the unleavened bread, the fleece . . . Then he gave us a sign that a virgin will give birth to a son, and He will be called Emmanuel – meaning God with us. At no other time has this happened, nor ever will be.

When this prophesy was given, it was a turbulent time in Israel, with an impending takeover by the Assyrians. When it was fulfilled, it was another turbulent time in Israel, when Rome ruled over the people. But, He was born for such a time as this!

There are ever increasing turbulent times now for Israel and us, but we can look forward to His coming again soon. He promised us He would, and He is ever faithful. Look up, for our redemption draws near. O Come Emmanuel!

Prayer:

Almighty and Loving Father, all the signs point to Jesus soon calling to us to “come up.” Our hearts and minds are on alert. We’re looking and waiting with anticipation. No matter what’s happening around the world, help us to keep focused on You. Only You are faithful, trustworthy and able to keep us until that great and awesome day. In Jesus’ precious name we pray. Amen & Hallelujah!

Alice Gardner

Thursday, December 4, 2025

FIFTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: Micah 7: 7

"But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me"

Devotion:

This Bible verse expresses complete faith in God, no matter what is happening in the world around us. Micah states that he will look to the Lord for hope and perseverance in whatever chaos surrounds him. It is a statement that does not entertain doubt about who will rescue him; God will hear him, no matter what. Micah **intentionally** chooses to rely on God for answers; he expresses **patience** in that he acknowledges that whatever response God will give him, it may not come immediately. God is where Micah will find salvation, as will we all.

Prayer:

Father God, please help us in our faith journey to acknowledge you as the source of everything for us. Help us to turn to You when we are troubled. Lead us to strengthen our faith so we can help others in their faith walks through life.

I ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Kathleen Turnbull

Friday, December 5, 2025

SIXTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ But in those days, after that tribulation: The sun will be darkened and the moon will not shed its light;²⁵ the stars will be falling from the sky, and the celestial powers will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ He will send out the angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.” ²⁸ Learn this parable from the fig tree: As soon as its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that He is near-at the door! ³⁰ I assure you: This generation will certainly not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away. ³² Now concerning that day or hour no one knows-neither the angels in heaven nor the Son-except the Father. ³³ Watch! Be alert! For you don't know when the time coming. ³⁴ It is like a man on a journey who left his house, gave authority to his slaves, gave each on his work, and commanded the door keeper to be alert. ³⁵ Therefore be alert, since you don't know when the master of the house is coming-whether in the evening or at midnight or at the crowing of the rooster or early in the morning. ³⁶ Otherwise, he might come suddenly and find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to everyone: Be alert!

Devotion:

Jesus reminds us that He will return and that nobody except God knows when that will be. We don't have time to “get it right later”, we need to always be doing our best to live according to His teachings and to strive to live as though He will return at any moment and we must each be ready for His return or be caught unaware and unprepared. We don't want God to have to say that He does not know our name because we haven't known Him.

Prayer:

Father in Heaven, thank you for your love and constant grace. Please help us to be ever mindful of your love and desires for our lives. Help us to stay true to you and to live the in the way you have taught us. Thank you for reminding us that we are not promised tomorrow and that we need to be always ready for your return.

Tracey Fukui

Saturday, December 6, 2025

SEVENTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: Romans 5:3-5

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Devotion:

Truth is, we all suffer at some point in life. Some of us, it seems, more than others. I don't think for one minute the writer of Romans is suggesting we should be happy about our pain but rather like Job we continue (with the Holy Spirit's help) to glorify and trust our Maker during those times.

A muscle not used is a worthless weak muscle. We may not like it but it's a part of life. Suffering is the furnace our soul must travel through to refine and develop our faith, trust, and hope. Our earthly bodies recoil against this reality. But the good news is we don't have to walk this difficult path alone! God, through the Holy Spirit, is in the furnace with us. The perseverance and character we pick up along the way can be used by God to help others in their journey if we allow it. The way we live our lives is the only bible some people will ever see.

If we keep exercising our faith "muscles" it will result in real hope. True hope will not disappoint. It will see us through suffering to the end of this life. When we move on from our earthly bodies, we will set suffering and hope aside forever as we bask in His presence!

Prayer:

Lord, open our spiritual eyes so we can see Your involvement in our lives and in this broken world. Help us to trust in, and bear witness, to You. Give us the gift of faith that invites us to Your banquet table.

Mike Baum

Sunday, December 7, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

Bible verse: Psalm 126

When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD had done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.

Devotion:

While we may have not spent time in physical captivity, we all have challenges in life; some major, some small. A big challenge for me was when my mother died after a short bout with cancer. I was so upset with God; how could this be!! How could He do this to me!!! Over the years I've thought, cried and prayed about this a lot. I prayed to God for forgiveness, and began to study His word. As I've studied scripture, I think that I was "captive" to my own selfish desires and afraid of "being on my own" without my mom. However, it is NOT about me! It is about God, about his love for us, a love so great he sent Jesus to save us. We are not alone with Jesus Christ as our Savior. It is really tough to deal with the loss of a loved one, but knowing that Jesus Christ is with me brings a sense of peace, comfort, and a joy that only comes from God. As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, may we remember how blessed we are.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, Thank you for loving us and for sending your son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Thank you for your faithfulness to us even when we fail. Thank you for being with us during the good times and the difficult times. May your love shine through us to others during this Advent Season. Amen

Linda Osborne

Monday, December 8, 2025

NINTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: Luke 1: 26-33 (ESV)

"In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to the city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!' But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'"

Devotion:

In this passage we read where Mary is given the message that she has been chosen by God to give birth to the child who will become great and take over the throne of David. Wow. What must have been going through her mind? It says she was greatly troubled but she listened with discernment, the thoughtful, spiritual way of listening. It must have helped her believe the message of the angel, so she didn't need to question, "Why me?" Even though she did not know what was going to happen she was obedient to God trusting in the message she had received. During this Advent season and onward let us listen with discernment for the messages being sent to guide us in the activities that God is leading each of us to do. Whatever message we receive let us live in obedience to God and trust that He will provide whatever we need to carry out His work.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, We thank you for this advent season and the chance to prepare once again to celebrate the birth of your Son. We thank you for your Word and the example of Mary so that when you call us to your service we will be obedient and trust that you will equip us for the work you would have us do. Thank you for the gift of discernment that St. Timothy has been using this year to help us to continue to do your work. Help us to continue to listen to you and trust your messages to us. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kathryn Radamis

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

TENTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: *Isaiah 61:8-11*

“For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed.” I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden uses seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Devotion

The Lord loves justice, hates robbery and iniquity. God will and has made an everlasting covenant with his people and descendants. All will acknowledge they are God’s people, and trust in the Lord. Trusting in God is a basis of our beliefs. Trust is defined as: 1) to rely on truthfulness or accuracy; 2) to place confidence in; 3) to hope or expect confidently. We delight in the Lord, for he has clothed me with garments of salvation. As fertile soil makes the sprout come up, and the garden to grow, the Lord will make righteous. Praise will spring before all nations.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Be with us as we portray your love. Seeing your presence will help us acknowledge that we are a people the Lord has blessed. We have trust in you, O Lord our God. Thank you for your acknowledgements, as we pursue our days. Amen.

Rick Dunn

December 10, 2025

ELEVENTH DAY OF ADVENT

Bible Verse: Luke 1:34-38

“34 How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” 35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail.” 38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”

Devotion:

Do you like that feeling when all your questions are answered? Maybe someone points out the correct aisle for the item you need at the grocery store, or someone explains how something works in just the right fashion so that little imaginary light bulb clicks on for you. Mary asks a valid question to start off the above passage. But notice that after her initial practical question, “How can this be...” and more importantly, the angel’s explanation, her questioning is over. The angel’s statement answered her question. She asks for nothing more than for the angel’s word to be fulfilled. As you wait to celebrate Jesus arrival, and wait to celebrate His return, quietly consider how God’s promises can be fulfilled in you.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, as we prepare for your arrival, may we understand that your plan for us and for the world never fails. Let us want Your Word to be fulfilled in us and through us, so that the joy of Your coming reflects both in our lives, and in full view of the world.

Matt Johnson

Thursday, December 13, 2018

TWELVE DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: 2 Peter 3:8-10a

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Devotion:

Timing is everything! I remember waiting for my college acceptance letter to come in the mail, thinking it would NEVER come. Yet I remember the birth of my first baby boy as though it was yesterday (in reality it has been 57 years).

And there were the times I appealed to God for help, almost losing patience when the answer was not immediately forthcoming. Then there have been occasions when I have felt that God was right there, offering just what I needed.

Regardless of the timing I might expect, I now believe that God's timing is perfect. He knows my every need and is just waiting for me to ask for help. How easy is that??? God loves us, He is patient with us, and He wants each one of us to come to repentance.

May your Advent be filled with glorious conversations with God and a renewed sense of relationship with Him.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help us to turn to you in times of joy as well as in times of need. Help us to accept your timing, knowing that we are your children and you know what is best for us. Be with us as we prepare the way during this Advent season. We give you all glory, laud, and honor! Amen.

Jeanne Phillips

Friday, December 12, 2025

THIRTHEENTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: *Psalm 24:4-6 (NIV)*

⁴The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.

⁵They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.

⁶Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.

Devotion:

Have you ever been asked, “when Jesus comes again, will I be saved?” It is not unreasonable that even believers who proclaim Christ with a reverently God-fearing attitude still wonder and ask the question. The Psalmist in today’s passage provides an answer.

- **Hands should be clean and our hearts pure**—spiritually, we should wash our hands of sin, just as we wash our physical hands before a meal. And, let not our hearts be dwelling places for grudges and unforgiveness, but instead let our hearts be filled with the kind of love that was exemplified by Jesus, who is our Savior;
- **Do not worship idols**—money, activities, homes, cars, hobbies, etc.--when our love of the things of this world takes the place or pushes God to the sidelines, it challenges our salvation. But God is forgiving so we can put Him back into the center, and be assured of His Saving Grace in so doing;
- **Do not swear by a false god**—we shouldn’t lie but instead, be truthful when and where it counts, in our relationships and how we conduct our business and affairs.

When we worship the one and only true God of Jacob and heed the Psalmist’s advice, we will receive “vindication from God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) our Savior”. So, Scripture indeed answers the question, “will I be saved?”

Prayer:

Dear Lord let us not be fearful of the time Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead but instead let us look forward to that time. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, we pray to remain clean of sin, pure in heart, always truthful, while putting you in the center of our lives. Amen.

Greg Kateff

Saturday December 13, 2025

FOURTEENTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Devotion:

In Isaiah, we read that us humans are like grass, and our faithfulness is like flowers of the field. We're not made to last, just here for a short season. What's supposed to endure is actually the word of our God. We could read that passage and think to ourselves, whelp, it's all useless, might as well eat, drink, and be merry. But wait, John 1:14 tells us something that might change all that. In John we learn that the Word (of God) became flesh. Sure, Jesus will endure forever, but what about us folks that are just furiously waving blades of grass? Well, don't we have the opportunity to also become the Word of God made flesh? Us who bring good news, who say "Here is your God!", who shout do not be afraid, those who allow ourselves to be gathered as a flock by our shepherd, to be led by our God. Is all our devotion for nothing? In Romans, we're told that we're all parts of one body (12: 4-8). If we're part of that body that is the Word made flesh, then maybe we are part of that enduring word. Us, the little blades of grass, we are being gathered together, each with our own unique gifts and lives. We get to proclaim this Advent season and every day that the Word of the Lord endures forever, and we stand as a witness to that truth when we allow the Holy Spirit to empower us, seek God, follow Christ, and love and serve our neighbors. Life may feel futile in this hustle and bustle, but just maybe we are enduring.

Prayer:

Help us to be your Word made flesh in this season, show us how to be your body and to endure. *Tina Puntigam*

Sunday, December 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: *Mark 1:7-8*

(7) And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. (8) I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Devotion:

This passage restates the prophecy written by Isaiah which talks about a messenger coming ahead of the Messiah. I am not even sure if John knew he was the chosen messenger of God, but he definitely knew who he was not. John did not assume a higher position simply because many people followed and listened to him. Many of those who were baptized by John likely thought that he was the Messiah, but John corrected them and simply shared the news of Christ's coming. He knew his job, and he stuck to it.

Have you ever been in a position where others believed that you were more important or had more power than you truly did? Did you correct their belief, or did you allow their mistake to continue because it made you feel good or benefited you in some way? How easy it would have been for John to take advantage of his position. Instead, he knew that it was incredibly important to confirm that he was not the true Messiah. John knew that he was not worthy of being praised and made sure that the public knew as well. He was a simple messenger – that was it – and he was determined to complete his assignment by sharing the truth and teaching all who came to be baptized.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, please help me to know my place and stay humble in my service to you. Please bless me as a simple messenger of faith, sharing the good news of Christ and his sacrifice for my sins. I look to you for your gentle guidance, and I thank you for the many blessings received by your grace. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Cassandra Sautter

Monday, December 15, 2025

SIXTEENTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: Matthew 1:18-19 (NLT)

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

Devotion:

Immediately following the genealogy of Joseph, we learn how our Savior was brought to the world. He was born of a woman, except that his birth did not have the normal genealogy. He is *God with us* for the defeated, hopeless people of God (Isaiah 7). Mary, Jesus' mother, was a pretty remarkable young woman. She said yes without question, expressing a degree of trust in the Lord seldom found in people in the Bible or elsewhere.

There is so much to admire about Joseph. The things that Joseph did not do are as telling about him as what he decided to do. Regarded as righteous, Joseph was a man who sought the Lord. In his time, when Mary could well have been stoned to death for infidelity (Deuteronomy 22: 23-24), he did not want to subject her to that. Joseph decided to divorce her quietly (Deuteronomy 24:1), that is, without stating a reason. That would avoid a public trial (Numbers 5:11-31).

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus. Oh Lord, your wisdom is beyond our comprehension. Help us to come to you first when decisions need to be made; so that we might make better choices, like Joseph. We ask for your guidance in making decisions that will be pleasing in your sight. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Carol Prevost

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

SEVENTEENTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: *Luke 2:1,3-5*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Devotional:

It isn't easy doing what is expected of us. This must have been very difficult for both Mary and Joseph. We probably can't even imagine the hardships such a journey would bring to two people traveling with only one donkey for transportation. But, we also know that they were not alone...God was with them all the way. We all know what happened when they got to Bethlehem. A tiny baby was born under very humble circumstances. But, God tells us it was His plan to bring His son into the world this way. We are promised that everything, even our discomfort, has meaning in God's plan.

Prayer:

Dear God our Father, You are truly awesome. What a miracle you sent us in Jesus, to remind us that life is not always easy. But, your plan for our lives is abundant. Thank you for helping me "GET OUT OF THE BOAT"! AMEN.

Dorothy Sanchez

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

EIGHTEENTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: Genesis 17: 4 – 6

I am making my agreement with you: I will make you the father of many nations. I am changing your name from Abram to Abraham because I am making you a father of many nations. I will give you many descendants. New nations will be born from you, and kings will come from you.

Devotion:

Abram had no children when God came to him and made a covenant that he and Sarai (Abram's wife) would have a son. Abram was 75 and Sarai was 65 when the promise was made. They waited 25 years for the promise to be fulfilled. God changed Abram's name to Abraham, meaning 'father of many nations' and Sarai's name to Sarah, meaning 'mother of many nations.' With the birth of their son, Isaac, God's promise was fulfilled. Abraham and Sarah never gave up their belief in the promise God made to them.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the covenant you made with us at the birth of Your Son. Help us to have the faith of Abraham and Sarah as we move through our lives each and every day.

Randy Wright

Thursday, December 18, 2025

NINETEENTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: Matthew 1:20-21, 25 (NIV)

20 But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Devotion:

God is an Amazing Planner Extraordinaire! Sometimes His plans take centuries to happen and they involve many people—and occasionally an angel. Joseph was a son of David, but many generations separated them. Mary was a young girl whose marriage was in her future. This was all in God's plan, and established Jesus' lineage, and fulfilled prophecy.

How amazing that both Joseph and Mary agreed to the angel's instructions. They had a few questions at first, but then they were all in. Joseph and Mary both accepted Mary's pregnancy and they named the baby Jesus.

Also amazing: The many prophecies of Jesus that are in the Old Testament. More evidence of God planning.

Prayer:

Dear God, You are amazing! Thank you for that, and for all the evidence that supports that. Most of all, thank you for sending your Son to save us all from our sins.

Amen

Karlane Belaire

Friday, December 19, 2025

TWENTIETH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: *Matthew 1:22-23*

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us").

Devotion:

Much has been written in biblical commentaries about this beautiful prophecy from Isaiah 7:14. Most of these discussions are over my head, but this is what the passage means to me.

Over almost 800 years before the birth of Christ, the city of Jerusalem was under siege. The leaders were in a state of terror. God chose this time to tell His people that He would care for them by sending someone who would be both God and man, a Savior. God was showing them His intention to protect, care, and be truly present to them.

Now, in Matthew, that promise was being fulfilled! Joseph is trying to understand what the angel has said. Jesus Christ will be born! God has again shown His faithfulness to His people. He has shown His intent, and His promise has come to pass. His steady love and care are there through the ages, and they are there for us now and forever.

We all face difficulties at times, and even terror. Although the days of Advent and Christmas are beautiful, and full of joy, they can be especially difficult for those facing serious problems or grief. May we all remember that God, in His endless love and grace, has given us His steady protection, love and care in Jesus. We only need ask.

Prayer:

God of Grace, Thank you for Your gift of love and grace to us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. We thank you for Your steady protection, love and faithfulness through the ages. May we be instruments of Your love and peace. We ask for Your special protection for those who are facing difficult challenges and grief during this time. May You hold them in the palm of Your hand, and give them peace. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Janet Richardson

Saturday, December 20, 2025

TWENTY-FIRST DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Devotion:

Have you ever done something that you knew would upset a friend or relative, even if it benefited you. How did you feel when that person found out? Probably not very good. It may have even caused irreparable harm to the relationship. So then was the "benefit" worth it?

Our culture reinforces doing whatever it takes to get ahead, and most often are "rewarded" when we do, but at what cost? God wants us to "rejoice always" and "give thanks" for what we have, what God has already blessed us with. Each of us has many blessings for which we can praise God, and if we rejoice in what we have, we can be content. So, our contentment is not dependent on whether or not we achieve goals for which we are striving. They may come to fruition, but contentment is always there.

And how we do things matters. Getting ahead, while hurting others, hurts our relationship with Christ. Trying to keep "blameless", though difficult, is something we should pursue. Would we rather welcome the "coming of our Lord" by being blameless, or hide from Him because of the things we've done for the sake of a benefit?

So, if we can rejoice in what we have (and praise God for it) and pursue the things that are good (and be a blessing to others), we can strengthen our relationship with Christ. A benefit well worth it, wouldn't you agree?

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you for all of the blessings that you have given to me. I pray that you grant me peace and fill me with your Spirit to help me strive to seek goodness and reject evil. Help me to prepare myself for the coming of your Son and to be a blessing to others. Amen.

Tim Chanko

Sunday, December 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: *Luke 2:6*

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born.

Devotion

Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem at time for Jesus to be born. Joseph and Mary were not married at the time. The birth took place in a barn, with animals, because there was no room in the inn. This was a special birth when Jesus had finally arrived. There had been no other prophets before Jesus for quite some time. Jesus is the Messiah of his people. There were Angels praising God in the highest, and on earth peace to men. This is validity that Jesus is the Messiah.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help us understand the arrival of your son, the Messiah. And what it means to us. As we pursue our daily lives and proclaim Jesus our personal Lord and Savior. AMEN.

Joni Dunn

Monday, December 22, 2025

TWENTY-THIRD DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith – to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Devotional:

Some people like suspense. They like the fact a book, TV show or movie will keep something or someone – often the villain – a secret until the very end. But not me. I'm not into suspense, mysteries, or surprise parties for that matter. I'm not even all that crazy about Chef's Surprise in restaurants truth be told. I want everything up front, early on. I want to know what is going to happen before it happens. At the same time, I understand it's best there are some things I don't know, like what my future holds and when I will shed this mortal coil of mine. I trust God and accept the fact he keeps some things secret for a reason, and will reveal them in his own time.

But I do know the good news of Jesus Christ: That he was born without sin, that he died on the cross to redeem me from my sins and will return again. In the passage above, Paul says that he is able to proclaim the message of Christ because God has revealed it. Although it was once a "mystery hidden for long ages past" it was a mystery no longer to Paul, to the Gentiles to whom he preached, or to us who live in this day and age.

I may not know the time of Christ's return (there's that suspense thing again), but I know He WILL return. That fact is comforting and another reason to celebrate His birth this Advent season.

Prayer:

Dear God: Thank you for sending your Son into the world. Like Paul, let us proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. Let it not be something we keep others in suspense about. Let us also give You the glory forever for giving us the gift of Your Son. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Marty Johnson

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY of ADVENT

Bible Verse: Colossians 3:15-16

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Devotion:

My parents raised us to love the Lord, from the time I was a little baby with 8 siblings. We went to church every Sunday, and I joined the church when I was an adolescent. My dad was active on a few committees, mostly having to do with the building and properties. When I got married and moved away I did not find a nearby church that embraced the warm welcoming atmosphere of the church where I grew up. I still had a personal relationship with God. I had my Bible and a hymnal. I thought that was enough. I prayed often and my prayers were answered when I found my church where I belonged! St. Timothy Presbyterian Church in Livonia. I felt like I came home. We do need to pray and sing hymns. However I came to realize that we need to attend church with our fellow believers.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for looking out for me over the years. Also allowing me the patience to finally find my church home—where I can learn to keep my faith growing and constantly learn. For all eternity!

Marlene Korne

December 24, 2025

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF ADVENT

Bible Verse: *Luke 2:8-19*

"⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Devotion:

After receiving such shocking and wonderful news, the shepherds' reaction shows us why the angels came to them in the first place: they responded with *wonder and action*. They hurried to find the child and shared what they had seen, glorifying God. Sounds wonderful! And yet it seems as we get older that we lose our ability to wonder: birthdays, celebrations, even Christmas, are all things we've done before. But perhaps the shepherds can remind us that Advent is a time of wonder as God breaks into our world. Is it possible to recapture the wonder of this birth? Can we bring back the amazement that the birth of Christ is meant to evoke? On this Christmas Eve, may we once more approach the birth of Christ with wonder in our hearts and joy in our eyes. Christ the Savior is born!

Prayer:

Oh, Light of the World, thank you for breaking into our darkness and delivering to us joy and hope. Help us to respond with wonder and with action, for your love never grows old and your peace is always welcome. Amen.

Pastor Joel