

**A Journey in Pictures
Advent 2024, Year B**

Advent Devotions



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Adapted from: pictureadvent.weebly.com

Pictures from: Pexels.com, pixabay.com, freepik.com,
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Instructions

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In this devotional booklet, each day's reflection will be a sacred encounter, an opportunity to draw closer to God and to understand our role in the story of Advent and Christmas. Through the wonderings and prayers, we will explore not only the profound meaning of the season but also how we can manifest its teachings in our daily lives. May this booklet be a beacon of light and spiritual growth.

As we prepare to embark on this Advent journey, I want to offer some guidance on how to make the most of this devotional booklet.

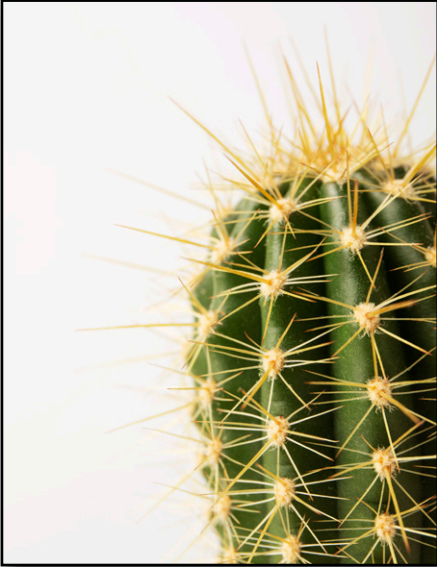
1. **Set aside a sacred time:** Select a time that works for you and/or your family. It might be breakfast, dinner, or bedtime. Make this a special time where you can come together in a spirit of reflection.
2. **Engage with the Scripture:** Read the provided scripture passage. Take your time to absorb its meaning, and consider how it resonates with your life. Encourage discussion, allowing each family member to share their thoughts.
3. **Contemplate the Images:** Study the accompanying images deliberately. Let them evoke emotions and deepen your understanding of the Scripture, offering visual insights into its meaning.
4. **Reflect with Wonder Questions:** Take time to explore the Wonder questions. Engage in a thoughtful conversation, sharing your perspectives and understanding. Don't rush this part; let the questions guide your thoughts.
5. **Prayerful Reflection:** Read the prayer. Consider your role in the situation and how you can live out the Advent message.
6. **Action Step:** Before concluding, think about one actionable step you, as an individual and as a family, can take in response to the day's reflection. Advent is a time of preparation, so consider how you can live out the message in your daily life.
7. **Share and Discuss:** If you're comfortable, share your insights with others. Consider discussing the reflection with a friend or within the congregation.

May this devotional booklet be a source of inspiration and transformation as we journey together through Advent. Let its wisdom and guidance illuminate your path and lead you to a deeper connection with God and the world.

Prayer: God of guidance, grant us the wisdom to use this devotional booklet to its fullest, that it may enrich our spirit and draw us closer to your divine presence.

December 1

View



READ

Luke 21:29-33, CEB

“Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God’s kingdom is near. I assure you that this generation won’t pass away until everything has happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

WONDER

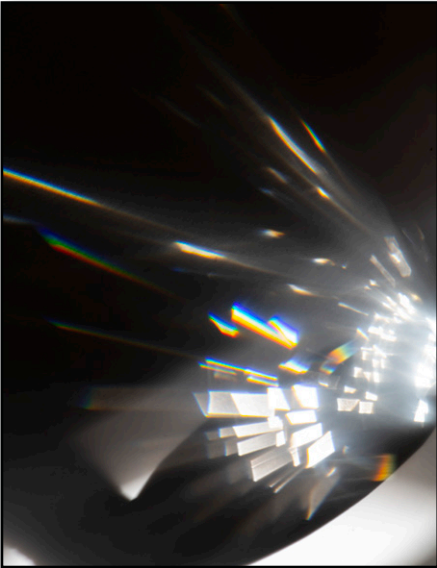
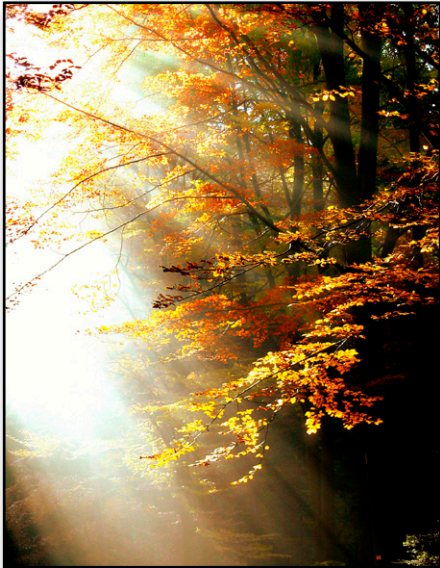
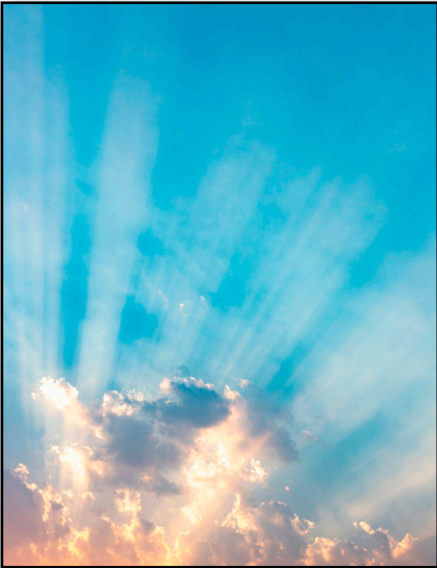
- I wonder what signs you see in the world that indicate something is happening soon.
- I wonder what it feels like to know that something exciting is getting closer.
- I wonder where you see God in these images or in the world around you.

PRAY

God of already, not yet, and here and now,
we thank you that you are always with us.
As we enter into this season of anticipation,
draw us closer to you as you come near to us.
In the name of Jesus Christ whose birth we await,
Amen.

December 2

View



READ

Genesis 1:1-5, CEB

When God began to create the heavens and the earth— the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters— God said, “Let there be light.” And so light appeared. God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. God named the light Day and the darkness Night.

There was evening and there was morning: the first day.

WONDER

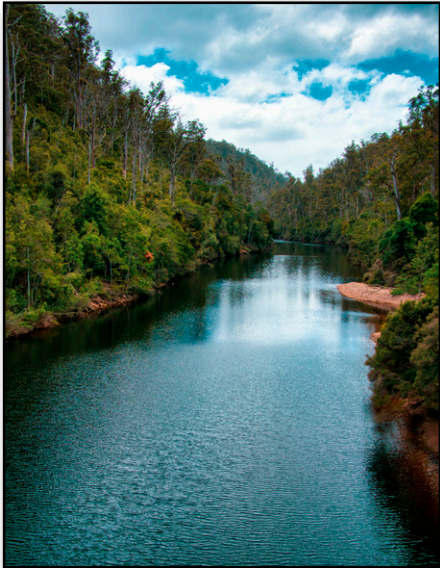
- I wonder how the light began.
- I wonder how bright the first light was. I wonder if it got brighter over time.
- I wonder how it feels to make something that has never been thought of before.
- I wonder what a human’s reaction would be to something that is so different and new.
- I wonder why God decided to make light first.

PRAY

God of creation,
we give thanks for the beauty and goodness of all that has been made.
Inspire us to act with love and care for all within it.
Open our eyes to see goodness and guide us to reflect light into places of need.
Amen.

December 3

View



READ

Psalm 8:1-2, CEB

Lord, our Lord, how majestic
is your name throughout the earth!
You made your glory higher than heaven!

From the mouths of nursing babies
you have laid a strong foundation
because of your foes,
in order to stop vengeful enemies.

WONDER

- I wonder what you think majestic means.
- I wonder what it looks like to stop vengeful enemies.
- I wonder which image speaks to you as you read the scripture, and why.

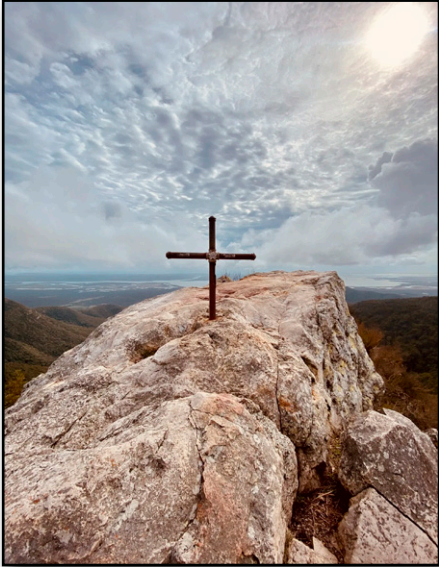
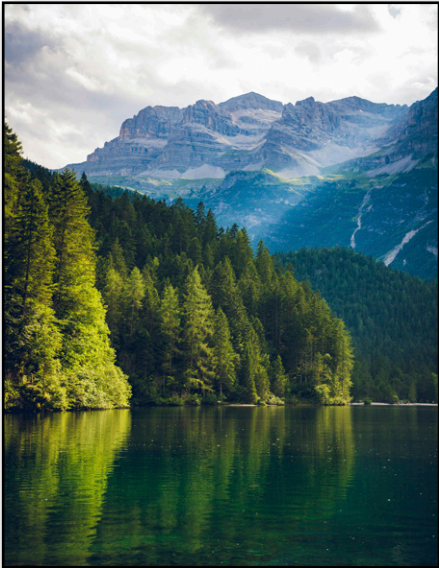
PRAY

God of majesty,
your glory shines all around!
The beauty revealed in mountains,
deserts, lakes, and rivers is truly wondrous.
We give thanks for the firm foundation
found in the story of Christmas
and the wonder of a child's birth.

Amen.

December 4

View



READ

Psalm 8:3-8, CEB

When I look up at your skies,
at what your fingers made—
the moon and the stars
that you set firmly in place—
what are human beings
that you think about them;
what are human beings
that you pay attention to them?

You've made them only slightly less than divine,
crowning them with glory and grandeur.

You've let them rule over your handiwork,
putting everything under their feet—
all sheep and all cattle,
the wild animals too,
the birds in the sky,
the fish of the ocean,
everything that travels the pathways of the sea.

WONDER

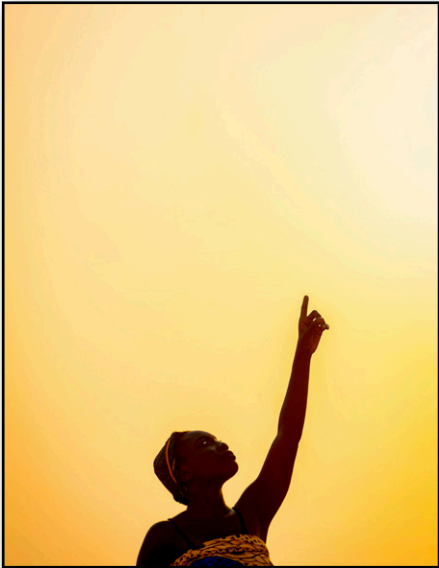
- I wonder how it feels, when you look at God's magnificent creation, to know that God created you beautifully with just as much care.
- I wonder how it feels to know that God has entrusted you with caring for all of that beautiful creation.
- I wonder where you can feel God's peace and presence.
- I wonder when you last made an intentional visit to that place and when you might visit it again.

PRAY

God of creation,
we stand in awe of the wonders crafted by your hand.
Yet even this beauty pales before the depth of love that sustains us.
Keep our hearts inspired and grateful as we seek to love and serve faithfully.
Amen.

December 5

View



READ

Romans 8:18-21, CEB

I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters. Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children.

WONDER

- I wonder where in creation you find yourself most alive with the Creator.
- I wonder where you feel most free in Christ.
- I wonder where you are most aware of the Holy Spirit.
- I wonder where you see the bondage of futility in your life or in creation around you.
- I wonder how our freedom invites us to join the work of freeing others and creation.

PRAY

God of enduring goodness,
whose love lasts forever,
you break the chains that bind bodies, hearts, and souls—
chains that burden all creation.

You call us to join in this work of liberation.

Christ our Redeemer,
free us for this mission.

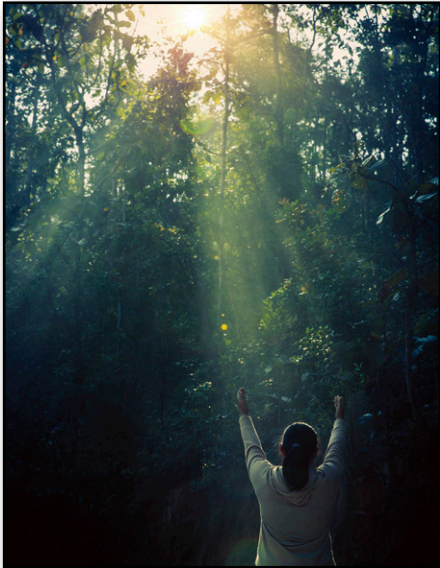
Send strength, and let us experience love anew as we share it with all creation.

We pray in the name of the Eternal, Triune God.

Amen.

December 6

View



READ

Romans 8:22-25, CEB

We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

WONDER

- I wonder what hurts more than words can express in the deepest part of your heart.
- I wonder how you will allow the Holy Spirit to move in you with groans and sighs too deep for words.
- I wonder how you will open your heart to the hope that the Holy Spirit brings.
- I wonder who or what you place your hope in.

PRAY

God of compassion,
the brokenness of creation grieves the divine heart.
Refusing to stand by,
love entered the world through Christ to call us into the family of hope and grace.
In these days of Advent,
as we wait in the shadows,
may we trust in the hope that never disappoints
and join in the work of restoration and redemption for all creation.

Amen.

December 7

View



READ

Luke 17:24-35, CEB

“The Human One will appear on his day in the same way that a flash of lightning lights up the sky from one end to the other. However, first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be during the days of the Human One. People were eating, drinking, marrying, and being given in marriage until the day Noah entered the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise in the days of Lot, people were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building. But on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. That’s the way it will be on the day the Human One is revealed. On that day, those on the roof, whose possessions are in the house, shouldn’t come down to grab them. Likewise, those in the field shouldn’t turn back. Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever tries to preserve their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in the same bed: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together: one will be taken and the other left.”

WONDER

- I wonder what it means to be caught up in the daily routines of life and still be unprepared for the sudden appearance of Jesus.
- I wonder why Jesus mentions the examples of Noah and Lot, and how they challenge us to think about our own priorities in light of divine judgment.
- I wonder how we can balance living in the world with the call to remain focused on God’s kingdom, as we hear in this passage.
- I wonder what Jesus meant when he said that those who try to preserve their lives will lose them, and how this speaks to our understanding of sacrifice and faith.

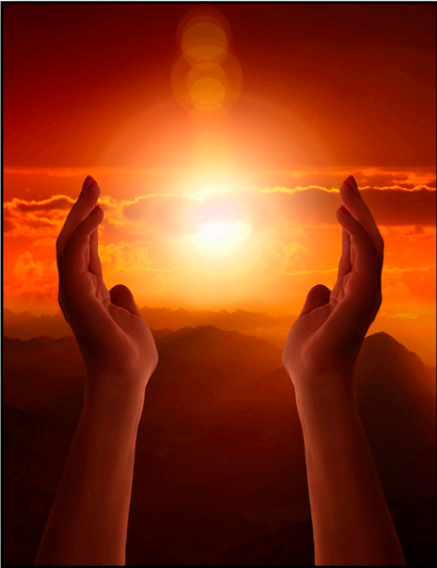
PRAY

God of promise,
we do not know when or how Christ will return,
but as we wait and watch,
guide us to be hands and feet of love and service here and now.

Amen.

December 8

View



READ

Luke 1:11-17, CEB

An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear.

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many people will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the Lord’s eyes. He must not drink wine and liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth. He will bring many Israelites back to the Lord their God. He will go forth before the Lord, equipped with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers back to their children, and he will turn the disobedient to righteous patterns of thinking. He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

WONDER

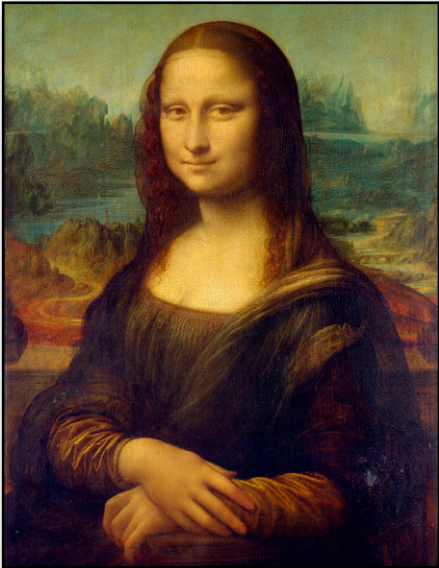
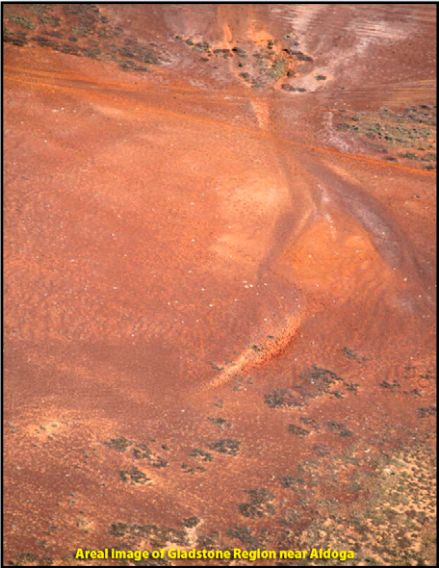
- I wonder why Zechariah was afraid.
- I wonder how the images bring life to today’s scripture.
- I wonder how you would respond if an angel spoke to you.
- I wonder how Zechariah felt when he was told his prayers were heard.
- I wonder how God answers your prayers.
- I wonder what we learn about ourselves from this scripture.
- I wonder what you/your family can do to “make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

PRAY

God of grace and love,
thank you for hearing us in our moments of fear.
Help us trust while we wait for the promises yet to come.
Send the Holy Spirit, as in the days of John,
to fill us with faith and courage.
May our love and care for others prepare them for life in your fellowship.
Amen.

December 9

View



READ

Isaiah 54:1-3, CEB

Sing, barren woman who has borne no child;
break forth into singing and cry out,
you who were never in labor,
for the children of the wife who has been deserted will be more numerous than the
children of the married, says the Lord.

Enlarge the site of your tent,
and stretch out the drapes of your dwellings;
don't hold back.
Lengthen your tent ropes and strengthen your stakes.
To the right and to the left you will burst out,
and your children will possess the nations' land
and settle their desolate cities.

WONDER

- I wonder why the prophet Isaiah encouraged Israel to sing, even though they were sorrowful in exile and likened themselves to barren women.
- I wonder if you've ever been told to "be happy" when you weren't feeling happy inside.
- I wonder how these photos reflect today's scripture to you.
- I wonder how God might be calling you to "enlarge your tent" in this season or the new year.

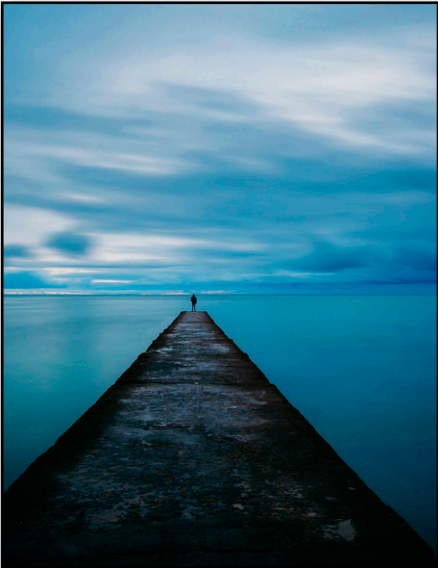
PRAY

God of comfort and joy,
there are times when your promise feels at odds with our emotions.
In moments when the "merry" in Christmas feels distant,
remind us that your love is constant and true.
May we move forward in hope,
trusting in the great things to come
from our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Amen.

December 10

View



READ

Isaiah 54:6-8, CEB

As an abandoned and dejected woman the Lord has summoned you;
as a young wife when she is rejected,
says your God.

For a brief moment I abandoned you,
but with great mercy I will bring you back.
In an outburst of rage,
I hid my face from you for a moment,
but with everlasting love I have consoled you,
says your redeemer, the Lord.

WONDER

- I wonder if you've ever felt left out, and how it felt to allow that emotion rise in you.
- I wonder if you have asked someone for forgiveness.
- I wonder how you can help someone not to feel alone.
- I wonder how you feel God with you when you make good choices and how you feel God with you when you make bad choices.

PRAY

God, who is always with us,
help us remember that even when we feel alone and left out, you will be there.
Even when we make mistakes, you will be there.
Even when we think all hope is lost, you will be there.
Help us follow your light and your hope.
In Jesus's name, we pray.

Amen.

December 11

View



READ

Psalm 113:1-4, CEB

Praise the Lord!

You who serve the Lord—praise!

Praise the Lord's name!

Let the Lord's name be blessed

from now until forever from now!

From sunrise to sunset,

let the Lord's name be praised!

The Lord is high over all the nations;

God's glory is higher than the skies!

WONDER

- I wonder what it means to praise God's name.
- I wonder what you can praise God's name for.
- I wonder how you can praise God's name.
- I wonder how it feels to give God thanks and praise.
- I wonder how God feels when you give God thanks and praise.

PRAY

God of love,

worthy of all our praise,

you are faithful, merciful, loving, and full of grace.

Send your Holy Spirit to guide us.

Open our eyes to the goodness in this life

through the promises you make.

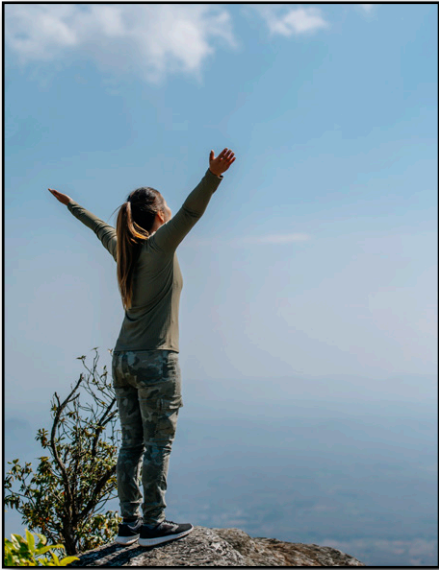
May your work inspire us

to praise your name now and forevermore.

Amen.

December 12

View



READ

Psalm 113:5-8, CEB

Who could possibly compare to the Lord our God?

God rules from on high;

he has to come down to even see heaven and earth!

God lifts up the poor from the dirt

and raises up the needy from the garbage pile

to seat them with leaders—

with the leaders of his own people!

WONDER

- I wonder how you imagine God looking at heaven and Earth.
- I wonder how it feels to live with God's freedom and peace.
- I wonder what kind of joy God brings.
- I wonder how God raises the poor and lifts up the needy.
- I wonder how you would feel if you sat with royalty.
- I wonder how viewing God as a mother changes your reflections on these wonderings.

PRAY

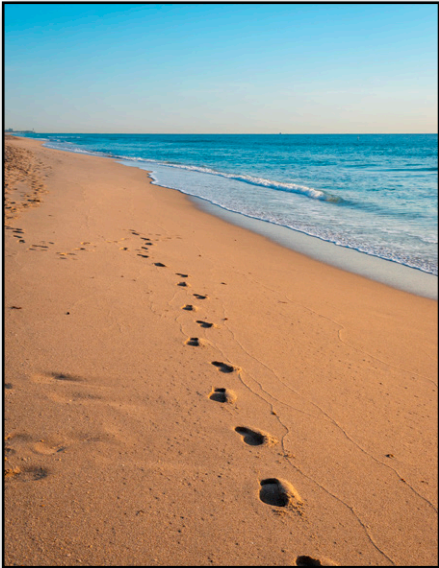
God of love,

thank you for modelling what love looks like and for helping us remember that love always wins. Thank you for reminding us how important we are to you and how we can be more like you here on Earth. We pray that you continue to teach, mould, and grow us in your love.

Amen

December 13

View



READ

Hebrews 11:8-13, CEB

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out without knowing where he was going.

By faith he lived in the land he had been promised as a stranger. He lived in tents along with Isaac and Jacob, who were coheirs of the same promise. He was looking forward to a city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith even Sarah received the ability to have a child, though she herself was barren and past the age for having children, because she believed that the one who promised was faithful. So descendants were born from one man (and he was as good as dead). They were as many as the number of the stars in the sky and as countless as the grains of sand on the seashore. All these people died in faith without receiving the promises, but they saw the promises from a distance and welcomed them. They confessed that they were strangers and immigrants on earth.

WONDER

- I wonder what it was like for Abraham and Sara to be strangers in the place they lived.
- I wonder what (or who) comforted Sara and Abraham as immigrants on Earth.
- I wonder how these images influence your perceptions of belonging, not belonging, or people's roles in the world.
- I wonder what in these images might represent God's promise.

PRAY

God, who welcomes all,
help us remember that you are a God who embraces the stranger.
Inspire us to offer welcome and generosity to those we do not recognise.
Inspire others to be equally generous when we are the strangers.
Help us all to belong and create places of belonging.

Amen.

December 14

View



READ

Luke 1:24-25, CEB

Afterward, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She kept to herself for five months, saying, “This is the Lord’s doing. He has shown his favor to me by removing my disgrace among other people.”

WONDER

- I wonder why Elizabeth kept to herself for five months.
- I wonder where you see God working in this passage.
- I wonder which part of this passage you relate to.
- I wonder which image you connect with the most.

PRAY

God of the big and small,
we consider all of the emotions Elizabeth felt as she became pregnant. Help us to consider how you are working in the small and big ways of our life.
Thank you for walking with us and hearing our prayers.

Amen.

December 15

View



READ

Matthew 1:1-6, CEB

A record of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah,
whose mother was Tamar.

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Aram.

Aram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab.

Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth.

Obed was the father of Jesse.

Jesse was the father of David the king.

David was the father of Solomon,
whose mother had been the wife of Uriah.

WONDER

- I wonder what Jesus would say about his family tree.
- I wonder how this genealogy would be affected by including the mothers.
- I wonder who some women are that have impacted your life and your faith.
- I wonder whose life you are helping to shape.

PRAY

God our Parent,

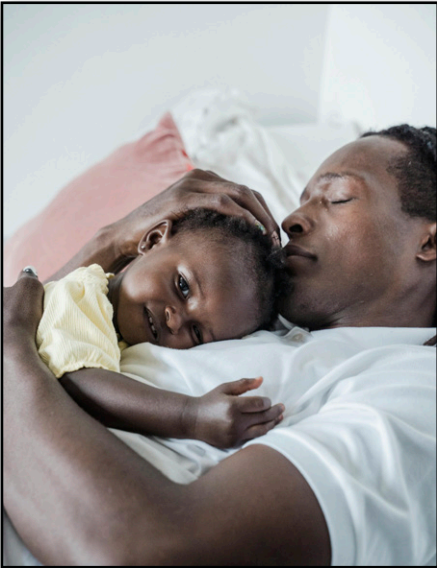
thank you for those who have helped shape our lives and faith.

May we remember to name and express gratitude to the family, friends, and neighbours who show and teach us your loving kindness. Guide us to do likewise for others.

Amen.

December 16

View



READ

Ruth 4:11-17, CEB

Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord grant that the woman who is coming into your household be like Rachel and like Leah, both of whom built up the house of Israel. May you be fertile in Ephrathah and may you preserve a name in Bethlehem. And may your household be like the household of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah—through the children that the Lord will give you from this young woman.”

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife.

He was intimate with her, the Lord let her become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi, “May the Lord be blessed, who today hasn’t left you without a redeemer. May his name be proclaimed in Israel. He will restore your life and sustain you in your old age. Your daughter-in-law who loves you has given birth to him. She’s better for you than seven sons.” Naomi took the child and held him to her breast, and she became his guardian. The neighborhood women gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They called his name Obed. He became Jesse’s father and David’s grandfather.

WONDER

- I wonder how you celebrate something you’ve hoped for.
- I wonder what some of your favourite stories about your ancestors are.
- I wonder how you see or feel God’s love in your family members.
- I wonder what you hope for your future family members (descendants).

PRAY

God of love,
thank you for the love you show through our family and for revealing your love to the world through the ancestors of Jesus. We celebrate your love and hope to share it with those who come after us.

Amen.

December 17

View

These photos of the churches in Ani, the City of 1001 churches, are from Flickr by Diana Rasador.



READ

Psalm 78:1-4, CEB

Listen, my people, to my teaching;
tilt your ears toward the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth with a proverb.
I'll declare riddles from days long gone—
ones that we've heard and learned about,
ones that our ancestors told us.

We won't hide them from their descendants;
we'll tell the next generation
all about the praise due the Lord and his strength—
the wondrous works God has done.

WONDER

- I wonder how you see God in each image.
- I wonder where God is present in these scenes, which seem timeless and enduring.
- I wonder where you see praise that is “due to the Lord” (v. 4).

Ani, a symbol of Armenian cultural and national heritage, is a ruined medieval city in Turkey near the Armenia border. Once the capital of the Armenian kingdom, it was known as the “City of 1,001 Churches.” Ani featured notable religious buildings, palaces, and fortifications that distinguished it from other urban centres.

- I wonder how knowing some of the history behind these photos changes the way you see God in them.
- I wonder what riddles or questions emerge from these images.
- I wonder how these photos reflect your life.
- I wonder how your faith has been impacted by letting go of or clinging to such mysteries.

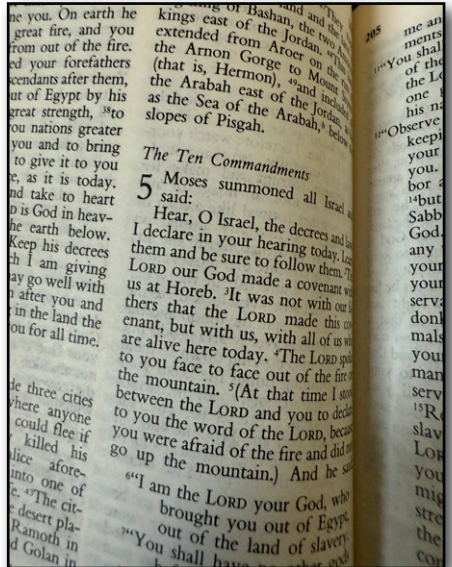
PRAY

God of grace,
we give you thanks for this day in Advent – this day that leads us one day closer to celebrating the birth of your son, our Saviour. As we allow our souls to continue towards this celebration, let us also remember to share with all generations – young and old alike – the praise due only to you. As we recount your glory, show us once again how we are part of the larger body of believers and how what we do and how we share helps your fellowship to manifest. In Christ's holy and precious name, we pray.

Amen.

December 18

View



READ

Psalm 78:5-7, CEB

He established a law for Jacob
and set up Instruction for Israel,
ordering our ancestors
to teach them to their children.

This is so that the next generation
and children not yet born will know these things,
and so they can rise up and tell their children
to put their hope in God—
never forgetting God's deeds,
but keeping God's commandments—

WONDER

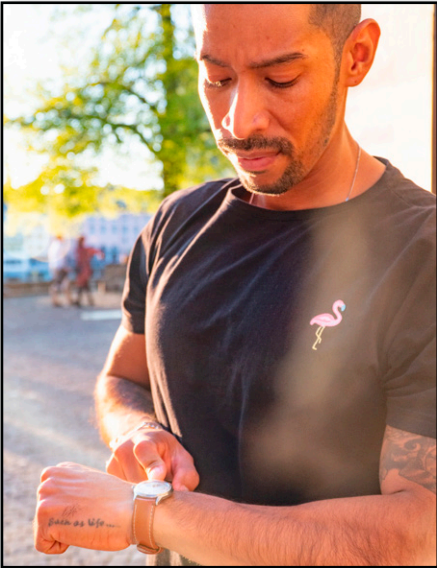
- I wonder who is teaching you the Law and who are you passing it on to.
- I wonder how observing God's law affects your everyday living.
- I wonder what these pictures say to you about these verses in Psalm 78.

PRAY

God of love,
thank you for loving us enough to give us laws to live by so we do not self-destruct.
Help us each day to depend on you so that we can learn and follow your laws.
During this season of Advent, we want to make room for you.
Forgive us when we don't put you first in our lives.
Thank you for loving us.
We love you.
Amen.

December 19

View



READ

Galatians 4:1-5, CEB

I'm saying that as long as the heirs are minors, they are no different from slaves, though they really are the owners of everything. However, they are placed under trustees and guardians until the date set by the parents. In the same way, when we were minors, we were also enslaved by this world's system. But when the fulfillment of the time came, God sent his Son, born through a woman, and born under the Law. This was so he could redeem those under the Law so that we could be adopted.

WONDER

- I wonder what the similarities and differences are between the words “slaves” and “heirs.”
- I wonder how each word describes the relationship between you and God.
- I wonder how Jesus' birth changes humanity's relationship with God.
- I wonder what things we can do while we wait for the “fullness of time” to celebrate Christ's birth during this season of Advent.

PRAY

God, the Alpha and Omega, beginning and end,
In the fullness of time, you took on the fullness of humanity,
And came to dwell amongst us as Jesus Christ.
Through him, we became your sons and daughters –
Heirs of your infinite kingdom.
During this season of waiting,
help us learn more about your love for us, your children.
In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

December 20

View



READ

Galatians 4:6-7, CEB

Because you are sons and daughters, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son or daughter, and if you are his child, then you are also an heir through God.

WONDER

- I wonder which image you would choose, how it relates to the Scripture.
- I wonder where you find God in this picture.
- I wonder how it feels to be a child of God.

PRAY

God of love,
help me remember the joy of knowing I am your child. Open my eyes to see that every-
one I encounter is also your beloved child.

Amen.

December 21

View



READ

Luke 7:24-28, CEB

After John's messengers were gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John. "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who dress in fashionable clothes and live in luxury are in royal palaces. What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. He is the one of whom it's written: Look, I'm sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. I tell you that no greater human being has ever been born than John. Yet whoever is least in God's kingdom is greater than he."

WONDER

- I wonder what emotions you feel when looking at the photos.
- I wonder how you connect the pictures to the Scriptures.
- I wonder if you were in the photo, where you would fit and what you would be doing.
- I wonder what story you can tell by looking at each photo.
- I wonder if you can hear the sounds and feel the air around you.
- I wonder if the story is from the past or the present, and what you learn from it.

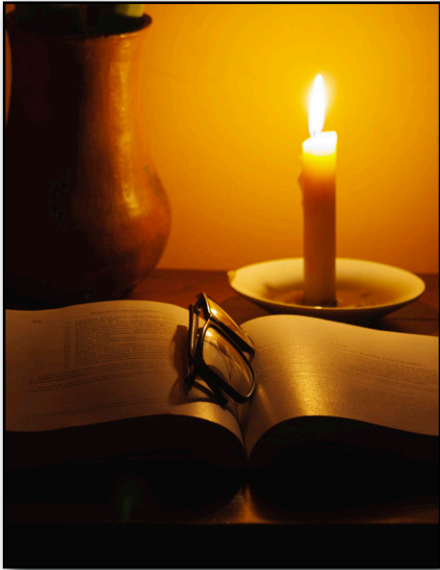
PRAY

God of light,
help me journey through each day, living the "Christ way" and reflecting your light into all the world. Teach me to be thankful for the blessings of each day and to share the joy of the season with everyone I meet.

Amen and Amen

December 22

View



READ

Psalm 34:3-6, CEB

Magnify the Lord with me!

Together let us lift his name up high!

I sought the Lord and he answered me.

He delivered me from all my fears.

Those who look to God will shine;

their faces are never ashamed.

This suffering person cried out:

the Lord listened and saved him from every trouble.

WONDER

- I wonder what keeps you up at night—what worries you or makes you afraid.
- I wonder where you think God might be at work in those moments when you are worried or afraid.
- I wonder what names you use for God when you pray for help or strength.
- I wonder where you see the light of God shining in the world and in your life.

PRAY

God of love,

we are so grateful for the ways you draw near to us when our fear, anxiety, and worry threaten to overwhelm us. We thank you for your faithfulness, your love, and your peace that passes all understanding. Today, we pray for all that weighs heavily on our hearts and minds, and we ask that you draw near once again. Be with us and with all those for whom we pray today – we need you, and we love you.

Amen and amen.

December 23

View



READ

Colossians 1:15-16, CEB

The Son is the image of the invisible God,
the one who is first over all creation,

Because all things were created by him:
both in the heavens and on the earth,
the things that are visible and the things that are invisible.
Whether they are thrones or powers,
or rulers or authorities,
all things were created through him and for him.

WONDER

- I wonder what your favourite thing is that God has created.
- I wonder how you know that God is with you.
- I wonder how it feels to know you are created by God.

PRAY

God, our Creator,
You have made all things amazing. Thank You for the beauty of life that surrounds us.
Keep our eyes and hearts open to Your presence and work in the world. Help us honour
and care for Your creation.

Amen.

December 24

View



READ

Matthew 1:22-25, CEB

Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,
And they will call him, Emmanuel.

(Emmanuel means “God with us.”)

When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

WONDER

- I wonder what emotions Joseph experienced when he discovered that Mary was with child.
- I wonder how you would feel if you were visited by an angel.
- I wonder how Mary felt after Joseph agreed to honour his commitment to marry her.
- I wonder how their first moments as a family felt.

PRAY

God of joy,
you are with us in our darkest times of confusion and hurt. You guide us through life's uncertainties and strengthen us with your love. May the story of the birth of your Son, Jesus, and his name, “Emmanuel,” remind us that you are indeed with us. Let us celebrate the birth of your Son with joy and assurance.

Amen.

December 25

View



READ

Luke 2:1-7, CEB

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

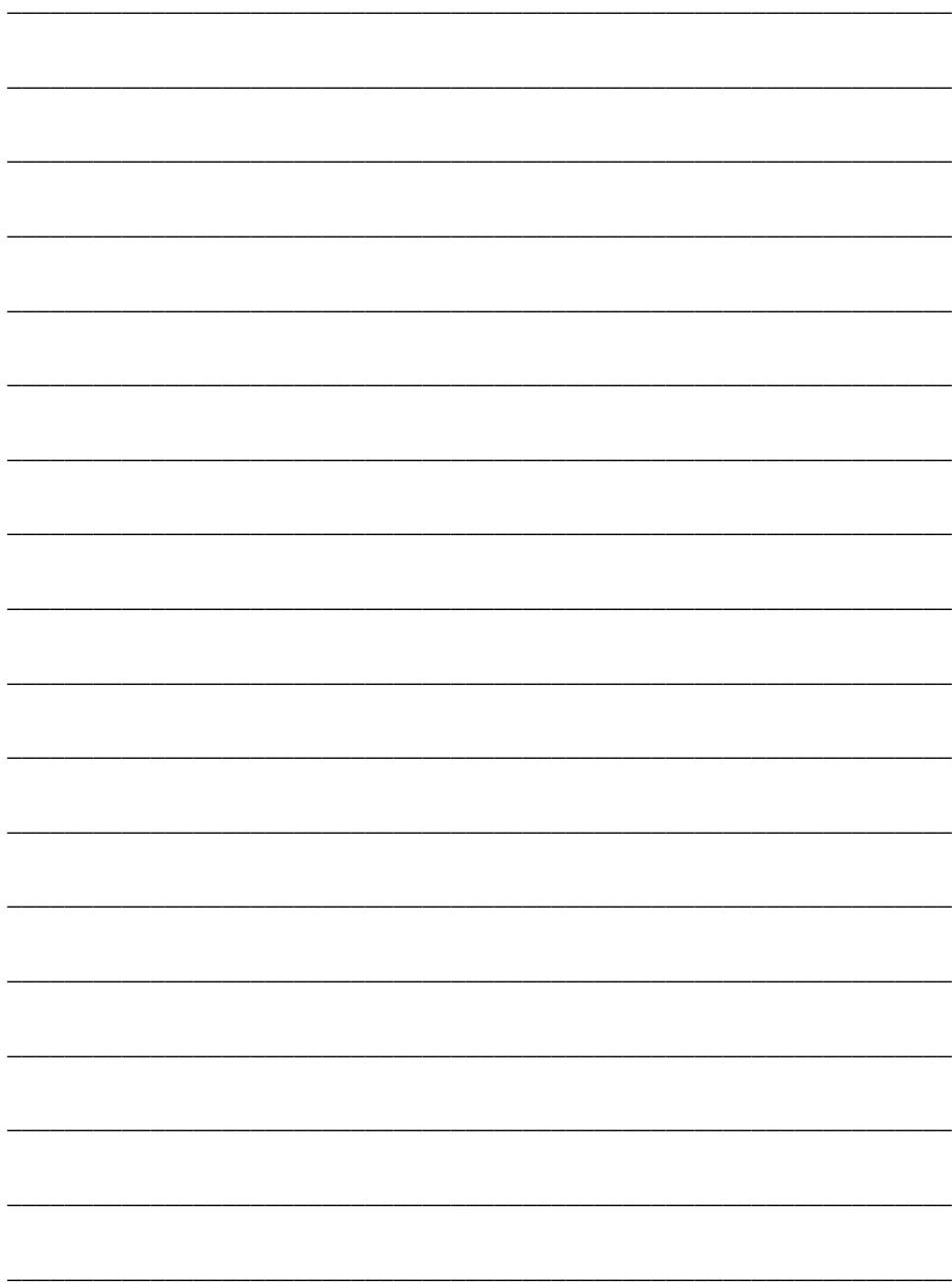
WONDER

- I wonder what you remember about hearing the story of Jesus' birth for the first time.
- I wonder what other ways you have heard this story told.
- I wonder what changes because of the scripture you just read.
- I wonder which image reminds you of the reading and why.
- I wonder how God is calling you to share and live in response to this story.

PRAY

God of eternity,
your love is born a child in Bethlehem.
Open our minds to hear what is new in this familiar story.
Wrap these words snugly in our hearts so that we might carry your gifts of
hope, peace, joy, and love with us always.

Amen.



Prepared by: Rev. Levon Kardashian.

Adapted from: pictureadvent.weebly.com

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