

Advent Devotional 2017

12/21 Hymn

Blessed Be the God of Israel (text by Michael Perry)

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise, the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes, to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace; O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease! The verse tells us that hope is coming for us in darkness. Do you feel the hope of Jesus? Have you ever? What does that look like?

12/22 Prayer

In this season of expectation we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah into the bustle of our lives and the hard to find moments of Solitude, we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah into our homes and situations along with friends and families. We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah. For beneath the surface of your story, is an inescapable fact. You entered this world as vulnerable as any one of us in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross. Our fears, our insecurities and our sins all that can separate us from God exchanged by your Grace for Love. We cannot comprehend the reasoning, only marvel that salvation comes to us through a baby born in a stable, and reaches out to a world in need. In this season of anticipation, we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah

12/23 Prayer

To you, O lord, we bring our lives troubled, broken, or at ease a sacrificial offering for you to use. Take away our selfishness and teach us to love as you loved. Take away our sense of pride and show us the meaning of humility. Take away our blindness and show us the world through your eyes. Take away our greed and teach us how to give as you gave. Show us your ways. Teach us your paths that we might walk with your more closely. Our hand in your hand. Our feet in your foot steps. From the baby in a stable To eternity. Amen.

12/24

God of majesty and power,
Who spoke and this world was
Who breathed and this world lived
Who counts the hairs upon our head
Who sees our thoughts and reads our hearts
Who loves us more than we deserve
How can we not bring today our sacrifice of praise?
For in the child at Bethlehem lies the promise of intimacy
With a Savior who would die even for me and the promise of an eternity
In which to praise you more each day
God of promise we praise your name. Amen

12/25

Merry Christmas ~ Traditional Worship Service at 11:15



It is our joy to worship and study His word together. We encourage you to use this guide to read with us at home and ponder these questions during the Advent Season.

**Come Worship with us Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24th**

10:00 am Family Service

7:00 pm Traditional Worship Service

9:00 pm Contemporary Worship Service

11:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service



12/3 Isaiah 9: 1-7 When have God's people walked in darkness? What does walking in the light look like?

12/4 Isaiah 9:6 Prophecies Jesus to be the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Which of these images of Jesus do you most long for? Why?

12/5 Prayer God of hope, who brought love into the world, be the love that dwells between us. God of hope, who brought peace into the world, be the peace that dwells between us. God of hope, who brought joy into the world, be the joy that dwells between us. God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the center, the focus of our lives, always, particularly this Advent time.

12/6 Isaiah 11:1-5 Can you imagine not judging with your eyes or ears? Who do you think are the meek of the earth?

12/7 Isaiah 11:6-9 What do you desire most about this prophesy?

12/8 Hymn Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (text by Charles Wesley)
Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
In what ways do God's people need to be set free? What holds you captive? What are your greatest fears? What would your life look like if you weren't held captive by these fears?

12/9 Hymn Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (text by Charles Wesley)
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
What does your heart long for in this season of your life?

12/10 Hymn Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (text by Charles Wesley)
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
Is Jesus reigning in you? In what ways? If Jesus' gracious kingdom were among you, how would you know?

12/11 Hymn Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (text by Charles Wesley)
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.
As the pressure of Christmas looms, what other "things/gods" rule in our hearts?

12/12 Prayer Advent God, we journey with you to Bethlehem's stable and a newborn King, ears attuned to the song of angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem's star. Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas And the promise of a Savior. Amen.

12/13 Luke 1:5-24 When has what the Lord promised seemed too good to believe? How has God taken away your disgrace?

12/14 Luke 1:26-38 Mary is considered to be the "theotokos" or God bearer. How do you bring God to the world?

12/15 Luke 1:39-45 When was the last time you were deeply excited about Jesus?

12/16 Luke 1:46-56 In what ways have the prophecies in vs. 51-53 come true? In what ways are you/we still waiting?

12/17 Luke 1:57-66 What does God's mercy look like today?

12/18 Luke 1:67-80 How do your feet need to be guided into the way of peace?"

12/19 Prayer This Advent time we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience, stepping out into the unknown in the strength of your Spirit, playing their part in the fulfilment of your plan To bring your prodigal people home again. We pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives, that when your gentle whisper breaks through the clamor of this world and into our small corner, we might be ready to listen, and having listened, to act.

12/20 Hymn Blessed Be the God of Israel (text by Michael Perry)
Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
Who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.
Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
A Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.
What feels like God's most important promise?