

The Third Week of Advent: December 16 - 22

Good news (Joy)

I. Psalm 80

II. Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday	Zeph 3:14-20; Phil 4:4-9; Luke 3:7-18
Monday	Mark 13:1-13
Tuesday	Luke 21:25-36
Wednesday	Revelation 1:1-8
Thursday	John 1:14-18
Friday	Ezekiel 34:11-16
Saturday	Acts 1:1-11

III. Pray for others

The Fourth Week of Advent: December 23 - 24

When God comes (Love)

I. Psalm 65

II. Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday	Micah 5:1-5; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55
Monday	Isaiah 9:1-7

III. Pray for others

Questions for engaging the Scriptures:

What is the good news in this passage?

What does this passage say about who we are?

What does this passage say about who God is?

How does this passage call us to a new way of life?

How does this passage send us out into the world?

Questions for reflection:

What is God saying to me?

What does a faithful response look like?

What is God calling me to repent from?

I am most thankful for _____!

Help me _____.

Where have I felt most alive this week?

Who am I sensing the Jesus calling me to reach out to?

III + III
**RHYTHM
CHURCH**

living in the rhythm of God's kingdom

2018 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Advent – comes from the Latin word *adventus*; it means *coming*. Advent is about three comings – the birth of Jesus, the incarnation, and the second coming. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year and is the time when the Church (universal) reenters the story of the coming of King Jesus, the Liberating King.

Joan Chittister writes: *“The liturgical year does not begin at the heart of the Christian enterprise. It does not immediately plunge us into the chaos of the crucifixion or the giddy confusion of the resurrection. Instead, the year opens with Advent, the season which teaches us to wait for what is beyond the obvious. It trains us to see what is behind the apparent. Advent makes us look for God in all those places we have until now ignored.”*

It is about learning to have eyes that are able to see beauty, hope, and joy where there is none. Our prayer during this season is “God as we wait with anticipation open our eyes so that we may see you more clearly.”

Advent consists of the four weeks before Christmas and each week has a theme. The first week is Hope, week two is Peace, week three is Joy, and week four is Love. As a community we will be lighting candles around the Advent wreath, which has five candles. There are four candles for each week and one big white candle in the middle called the Christ candle, which is lit on Christmas Eve.

We encourage individuals, families, friends, co-workers, and Community Groups to participate in Advent together as a way to draw closer to Christ by positioning ourselves to hear from Him during this season. One of the ways we suggest that you do this is through daily prayer and daily Scripture readings (Monday – Saturday) that focus on God’s work of salvation through Jesus Christ. Since most of the daily readings are only a few verses, there should be time to read, reflect and discuss the daily reading as a family or with friends or colleagues. For those of you reading with children, you may wish to use a good children’s Bible, such as *The Jesus Storybook Bible* (talk to Lauren if you’d like to see one of these).

We hope that this path of prayer and Scripture reading will prove fruitful for you as you seek Christ during Advent. This is a great opportunity for each of us to allow God to speak to us in new ways this season.

And so as a community this year we want to enter into this season learning to wait with joy in the midst of a society of instant, now and fast food. This devotional is a tool for us to build our waiting muscles. We hope you grow closer to Jesus and that HE reveals Himself to you in a real way this season.

The First Week of Advent: December 2 - 8

Waiting and Watching (Hope)

I. Psalm 97

II. Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday	Jer. 33:14-16; 1 Thess 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
Monday	Luke 1:67-80
Tuesday	Colossians 1:9-23
Wednesday	Mark 1:1-8
Thursday	Isaiah 43:1-13
Friday	Hebrews 10:11-25
Saturday	Zephaniah 3:14-20

III. Pray for others

The Second Week of Advent: December 9 - 15

Getting ready and Preparing (Peace)

I. Psalm 62

II. Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday	Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
Monday	Luke 1:5-25
Tuesday	Luke 1:57-80
Wednesday	Matthew 3:1-12
Thursday	Isaiah 62:1-12
Friday	Luke 12:35-48
Saturday	Isaiah 51:1-8

III. Pray for others

HOW TO USE THE DEVOTIONAL:

The devotional is broken up into 3 parts. The Psalm, Daily Scripture, and Pray for others.

I. Begin each day by reading the *Psalm* for the week. The Psalms help us learn how to communicate our full-selves to God.

II. Then read the *Daily Scripture* passage that is assigned for the day of the week. When you are done reading, take 5-10 minutes to reflect either by journaling, sketching, or just thinking. While reflecting, give God space to speak to you (there are some questions that you can use for reflection at the bottom of each page).

III. *Pray for others*, for your family, those who are suffering in our world, and people in Miami.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHILE USING THE DEVOTIONAL:

- Keep a prayer journal
- Read each day with family or friends
- Ask someone to be a reading partner; then talk about it daily or weekly
- Read the passages 3 times a day
- Rewrite a passage in your own words
- If you miss a day don't fret, pick it back up the next day

Questions for engaging the Scriptures:

What is the good news in this passage?

What does this passage say about who we are?

What does this passage say about who God is?

How does this passage call us to a new way of life?

How does this passage send us out into the world?

Questions for reflection:

What is God saying to me?

What does a faithful response look like?

What is God calling me to repent from?

I am most thankful for _____!

Help me _____.

Where have I felt most alive this week?

Who am I sensing the Jesus calling me to reach out to?