



ADVENT 2025

WAREHOUSE 242

MAY OUR WAITING BE FILLED WITH
A HOPE THAT IS BOTH HONEST AND
DEFIANT, A HOPE THAT HOLDS
SPACE FOR ALL THAT IS STILL
BROKEN WHILE BELIEVING IN A
LOVE THAT WILL ONE DAY MAKE
EVERYTHING RIGHT.

KATE BOWLER

WHAT IS ADVENT?

THE ADVENT SEASON IS MARKED BY THE FOUR SUNDAYS LEADING UP TO JESUS' ARRIVAL ON CHRISTMAS DAY. ADVENT IS ACTUALLY THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH CALENDAR YEAR AND IT REPRESENTS THE YEARS OF YEARNING FOR A MESSIAH BEFORE JESUS' BIRTH. THE CHURCH CALENDAR BEGINS IN THE DARKNESS AND THE LONGING OF A WORLD WAITING FOR LIFE TO BE BIRTHED.

ADVENT SIMPLY MEANS TO COME. AND WITH THE SEASON OF ADVENT COMES OUR OWN INVITATION TO SIMPLY COME – TO ENTER INTO THIS SEASON OF WAITING FULLY PRESENT TO THE ONE WHO WAS AND IS AND IS TO COME.

WE HAVE PROVIDED TOOLS TO HELP YOU MOVE WITH INTENTION THROUGH THIS SEASON - NOT TO PROVIDE ANOTHER TASK TO BE DONE, BUT A CHANCE TO PAUSE AS YOU ARE ABLE.

LET US NAME OUR LONGINGS AS WE WAIT IN HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION. LET US WONDER AGAIN AT HOW JESUS SHOWS UP IN ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY WAYS. LET US PREPARE HIM ROOM TOGETHER.

A PRAYER FOR THE ADVENT SEASON

**HOLY AND GENEROUS GOD,
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO NAMES US, WELCOMES US,
AND HOLDS US IN YOUR ABUNDANT LOVE.
AS WE BEGIN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT,
MAY WE TURN OUR HEARTS AND OUR LONGINGS
TO YOU IN TRUST AND EXPECTATION,
BECAUSE YOU ARE THE GOD WHO HEARS THE CRIES OF YOUR PEOPLE.**

**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

**MAKE US A PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE YOUR GENEROSITY
AND SHARE IT FREELY WITH OTHERS.
MAY WE MAKE ROOM FOR MORE OF YOU IN OUR HEARTS, OUR HOMES,
IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, IN OUR CITY, AND IN THE WORLD.
TO YOU, WE SAY, "COME, LORD JESUS."**

**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

**IN THE GROWING DARKNESS,
MAY WE BE PEOPLE WHO SEEK THE LIGHT.
WE PRAY FOR OUR CITY,
FOR OUR NEIGHBORS, FOR THE NATION, AND THE NATIONS.
GOD OF JUSTICE AND MERCY, REMIND US THAT IN YOUR KINGDOM
EVERY PERSON BEARS YOUR IMAGE.
EVERY PERSON IS WORTHY OF DIGNITY, BELONGING, AND HOPE.**

**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

**THIS ADVENT SEASON
FILL US WITH HOPE.
STEADY US WITH YOUR PEACE.
SURPRISE US WITH YOUR JOY.
CALM US WITH YOUR LOVE.**

**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

**MAY WE SEEK YOU AND FIND YOU IN ORDINARY
AND EXTRAORDINARY WAYS THIS SEASON.
MAY WE BE A PEOPLE OF GENEROUS FAITH—
HUMBLE IN SPIRIT, HONEST IN OUR NEED,
OPEN-HANDED TOWARD ONE ANOTHER,
AND FEARLESS IN LOVE.**

**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

**WE ENTRUST ALL THESE PRAYERS TO YOU,
CONFIDENT IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD,
WHO WAS, AND IS, AND IS TO COME.
TO YOU BE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER.**

**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

AMEN.

WEEK 1

HOPE

READ LUKE 1: 39-45

THE CANTICLE OF ELIZABETH

AT THAT TIME MARY GOT READY AND HURRIED TO A TOWN IN THE HILL COUNTRY OF JUDEA, WHERE SHE ENTERED ZECHARIAH'S HOME AND GREETED ELIZABETH. WHEN ELIZABETH HEARD MARY'S GREETING, THE BABY LEAPED IN HER WOMB, AND ELIZABETH WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. IN A LOUD VOICE SHE EXCLAIMED:

"BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN, AND BLESSED IS THE CHILD YOU WILL BEAR! BUT WHY AM I SO FAVORED, THAT THE MOTHER OF MY LORD SHOULD COME TO ME? AS SOON AS THE SOUND OF YOUR GREETING REACHED MY EARS, THE BABY IN MY WOMB LEAPED FOR JOY. BLESSED IS SHE WHO HAS BELIEVED THAT THE LORD WOULD FULFILL HIS PROMISES TO HER!"

REFLECT

SPEND A FEW MINUTES IN SILENCE. HOW ARE YOU FEELING AS THIS SEASON BEGINS? WHAT ARE YOU HOPING FOR THE LORD TO DO IN YOUR LIFE OR IN THE WORLD? CAN YOU, LIKE MARY, NAME AND REMEMBER THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU?

PRACTICE

HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH GOD ABOUT THE THINGS YOU HAVE REFLECTED ON, PERHAPS NAMING YOUR HOPE FOR HOW YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE GOD THIS SEASON.

IS THERE SOMEONE IN YOUR LIFE IN NEED OF HOPE? IMAGINE HOLDING THAT PERSON BEFORE THE LORD AND PRAYING FOR HOPE. CONSIDER REACHING OUT TO THAT PERSON OR WRITING HIM OR HER A CARD OR TEXT.

ENGAGE

REGISTER TO ATTEND WAREHOUSE 242'S LISTENING SERIES: DIGNIFIED STORYTELLING WITH LICA GARNETT ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH. WWW.WAREHOUSE242.ORG/EVENTS

WEEK 2

PEACE

READ LUKE 1: 46-56

THE CANTICLE OF MARY

**AND MARY SAID: “MY SOUL GLORIFIES THE LORD
AND MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOR,
FOR HE HAS BEEN MINDFUL OF THE HUMBLE STATE OF HIS SERVANT.
FROM NOW ON ALL GENERATIONS WILL CALL ME BLESSED,
FOR THE MIGHTY ONE HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR ME—
HOLY IS HIS NAME.**

**HIS MERCY EXTENDS TO THOSE WHO FEAR HIM,
FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.
HE HAS PERFORMED MIGHTY DEEDS WITH HIS ARM;
HE HAS SCATTERED THOSE WHO ARE PROUD IN THEIR INMOST
THOUGHTS.**

**HE HAS BROUGHT DOWN RULERS FROM THEIR THRONES
BUT HAS LIFTED UP THE HUMBLE.**

**HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS
BUT HAS SENT THE RICH AWAY EMPTY.**

**HE HAS HELPED HIS SERVANT ISRAEL,
REMEMBERING TO BE MERCIFUL TO ABRAHAM AND HIS
DESCENDANTS FOREVER,
JUST AS HE PROMISED OUR ANCESTORS.”**

REFLECT

WHAT EMOTIONS OR THOUGHTS ARE SURFACING IN YOU AS YOU NAVIGATE THIS SEASON?

**CAN YOU NAME A TIME WHEN YOU EXPERIENCED PEACE?
WHERE ARE YOU LONGING FOR PEACE IN YOUR LIFE AND IN
OUR WORLD?**

PRACTICE

JESUS TAUGHT THAT LOVE AND PRAYER FOR OUR ENEMIES IS THE PATH TO PEACE. SPEND TIME WALKING A PORTION OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD OR CITY PRAYING FOR PEACE AND THAT YOUR FEET WOULD BE GUIDED INTO A PATH OF PEACE.

ENGAGE

READ OR GIFT SOMEONE A JUST MISSION BY MEKDES HADDIS AND LATASHA MORRISON ALONG WITH US AS WE ANTICIPATE A GATHERING WITH THE AUTHOR, MEKDES HADDIS, IN JANUARY 2026.

WEEK 3

JOY

READ LUKE 1:67-79

THE CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

**HIS FATHER ZECHARIAH WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND
PROPHESED: "PRAISE BE TO THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL,
BECAUSE HE HAS COME TO HIS PEOPLE AND REDEEMED THEM.
HE HAS RAISED UP A HORN OF SALVATION FOR US
IN THE HOUSE OF HIS SERVANT DAVID
(AS HE SAID THROUGH HIS HOLY PROPHETS OF LONG AGO),
SALVATION FROM OUR ENEMIES
AND FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US—
TO SHOW MERCY TO OUR ANCESTORS
AND TO REMEMBER HIS HOLY COVENANT,
THE OATH HE SWORE TO OUR FATHER ABRAHAM:
TO RESCUE US FROM THE HAND OF OUR ENEMIES,
AND TO ENABLE US TO SERVE HIM WITHOUT FEAR
IN HOLINESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE HIM ALL OUR DAYS.**

**AND YOU, MY CHILD, WILL BE CALLED A PROPHET OF THE MOST HIGH;
FOR YOU WILL GO ON BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR HIM,
TO GIVE HIS PEOPLE THE KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION
THROUGH THE FORGIVENESS OF THEIR SINS,
BECAUSE OF THE TENDER MERCY OF OUR GOD,
BY WHICH THE RISING SUN WILL COME TO US FROM HEAVEN
TO SHINE ON THOSE LIVING IN DARKNESS AND IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH,
TO GUIDE OUR FEET INTO THE PATH OF PEACE."**

REFLECT

WHAT IS STIRRING WITHIN YOU AS YOU MOVE THROUGH THIS SEASON? ARE THERE WAYS THAT YOU CAN PREPARE HIM ROOM IN YOUR LIFE? IN YOUR HOME? IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? IN OUR CITY?

WHAT DOES THE TENDER MERCY OF OUR GOD LOOK LIKE?

PRACTICE

HERE IS A BREATH PRAYER TO CARRY WITH YOU THIS WEEK:

**INHALE; HOLY SPIRIT
EXHALE: GUIDE MY FEET**

ENGAGE

AS YOU BAKE OR COOK THIS WEEK, CONSIDER LEARNING MORE ABOUT ANOTHER CULTURE'S CHRISTMAS FOOD TRADITIONS AND TRYING A NEW RECIPE. PERHAPS YOUR COOKING CAN BECOME AN ACT OF PRAYER OR A WAY TO SHARE FOOD WITH OTHERS.

WEEK 4

LOVE

READ LUKE 2:14

THE CANTICLE OF THE ANGELS

**“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN,
AND ON EARTH PEACE TO THOSE ON WHOM HIS
FAVOR RESTS.”**

REFLECT

WHAT AM I NOTICING ABOUT MYSELF AS CHRISTMAS DRAWS CLOSER?

PRACTICE

CONSIDER WRITING YOUR OWN CANTICLE OR SONG OF PRAISE USING THE FOLLOWING PROMPTS:

- **HOW DOES YOUR HEART OR SOUL FEEL ABOUT THE LORD?**
- **IN LIGHT OF THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE FOR YOU,**
- **WHAT NAMES MIGHT YOU BE CALLED?**
- **WHAT DO YOU KNOW TO BE TRUE ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER?**
- **NAME SOME WAYS YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED GOD?**

ENGAGE

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONAL PARTNERS AND THEIR WORK TO BRING GOD'S KINGDOM IN THE WORLD. YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH OF THEM HERE:

[HTTPS://WAREHOUSE242.ORG/WAYS-TO-CONNECT/OUR-MISSIONAL-PARTNERS/](https://warehouse242.org/ways-to-connect/our-missional-partners/)



**AUDIO VERSIONS OF GUIDED PRAYERS FOR ADVENT FROM
THE BOOK PAUSE: A YEAR OF GUIDED PRAYER AND
REFLECTION WRITTEN BY ONE OF OUR ELDERS, HOLLY
NORTON, ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE QR CODE BELOW.
FIND MORE INFORMATION AT THEPILGRIMCOLLECTIVE.COM**



ENGAGE

**USE THE QR CODE BELOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR INCREASED
ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS IN CHARLOTTE
AND/OR EMAIL
ANNE LAWRIE AT ENGAGE@WAREHOUSE242.ORG
TO BE ADDED TO OUR ENGAGEMENT DISTRIBUTION
LIST FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WAYS TO
ENGAGE LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY.**



THE CANTICLE OF SIMEON A READING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

SOVEREIGN LORD,
AS YOU HAVE PROMISED,
YOU MAY NOW DISMISS
YOUR SERVANT IN PEACE.

FOR MY EYES
HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION,
WHICH YOU HAVE PREPARED
IN THE SIGHT OF ALL NATIONS:
A LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO THE GENTILES,
AND THE GLORY
OF YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL.”

LUKE 2:29-32