



**Join us as we prepare the way for the
Christ Child during this Season of Advent.**

You will find weekly devotions you can enjoy with
your family around the dinner table and daily
meditations that may be an opportunity for more
personal reflection. The devotional will take you
all the way to Christmas Eve.

**COMMUNITY OF GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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LIGHT IN THE

CANDLE ONE: HOPE

WEEK ONE FAMILY DEVOTION: NOVEMBER 27

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Bible

Pens/Pencils

Advent Wreath & Candles

Lighter/Matches

OPTIONAL:

Device for Music

Blank Paper

Crayons/Markers

SET THE SCENE: *Read aloud: Genesis 12:3b*

Ever since that dark day when Adam and Eve trusted the serpent's words instead of God's, humanity had wandered in darkness. Not literal darkness; the sun still rose and the stars still shone in the night. But spiritually, we were separated, cut off from the glorious Light of our Creator who loves us. People could sense that something inside of us was missing, and they tried all sorts of ways to restore our broken relationship with the divine. They put their hope in false idols to save them from the darkness they felt in their souls. Nothing mankind did could repair the brokenness. Nothing we tried could save us from the darkness. But God was not content to leave things broken between us. He had a plan, and that plan gave hope to a very special people: the descendants of Abraham. For God had promised Abraham, "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

ICEBREAKER DISCUSSION:

- *What are some things that you are hoping for or have hoped for in the past?*
- *How does it feel to hope for something?*
- *What does it feel like when the thing you hoped for comes true? How does it feel when something you hoped for doesn't come true?*

HYMN SING: Listen to your favorite version of **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** and/or sing it together as a family. You may also read the lyrics aloud if you prefer.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel

O come, strong branch of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer,
Our spirits by your advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

HYMN DISCUSSION:

- *What emotions does the melody stir?*
- *Pass the devotional and give family members an opportunity to circle 1-3 words or phrases that make them think of "hope."*
- *Give a chance for everyone to share why they circled those words or phrases.*

SCRIPTURES: Read Isaiah 9:2 & Daniel 7:13-14

SET THE SCENE: *Darken your room as much as*

E D A R K N E S S

possible, then read aloud:

Throughout their history, God's chosen people experienced joy and sorrow, beauty and suffering, hope and despair, darkness and light. But even in their darkest hours of slavery, oppression, and exile, the Word of God came to the prophets with messages of hope. Someday, they prophesied, a King would come, unlike any King who came before Him. He would come to save us from the darkness, like a candle chasing away the shadows in a dark room. **Light the "Hope" candle.**

The separation between God and mankind would be ended. The brokenness would be repaired. It wouldn't be because of anything we did to fix things, but only because of God's great love for us. Our Creator was coming to rescue us, and nothing in the universe – no power of darkness, no army of demons, no shadow of death – could stop Him.

BRING IT HOME:

- *Who is your favorite hero or savior figure in books, comics, movies, etc.? Encourage younger children to draw their favorite hero as you talk.*
- *Who does your favorite hero save? How does the hero save them?*

WRAP UP:

All *hero* or *savior* stories that man has ever written are really just creative reflections of the greatest true Savior story ever told: the story of God saving the people He loves. That's why we are drawn to tell and listen to stories about great heroes who sacrifice themselves to save those they love who can't save themselves. That's our story. Just like the people of the ancient world tried to find all sorts of ways to save themselves from the darkness they felt, we do the same thing, even though we know where to find the Light. We still put our hope into things that aren't of God. Let's take a moment and repent of that right now.

Have family members pray and repent silently.

If you have younger children, lead them in this prayer: *Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to save us. Thank you for the hope you brought to the world. We are sorry for the times when we have not trusted in You to be our Savior. Help us to recognize when the world is telling us to place our hope in ourselves or other things that aren't You. Only You can save us from the darkness of sin. Only you can give us hope. We love you. Amen.*

Close your time by listening to or singing your family's favorite Christmas carol.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28: A LIGHT OF HOPE

Read: Isaiah 9:1-7

- *Jesus is sent for those who have been 'living in a land of deep darkness'. What has felt dark to you lately?*
- *Verse 4 says he comes to 'shatter the yoke that burdens them.' What burdens have you been carrying? Invite Jesus into what feels dark to you and the burdens you carry.*
- *What brings you hope in verses 6-7? Thank the Lord for that hope.*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29: ZECHARIAH'S SONG OF HOPE

Read: Luke 1:76-79

- *Zechariah the priest had been waiting for the Messiah. Here the Holy Spirit revealed his son John would be the prophet to 'prepare the way' for the Messiah! In this prophetic song, what does Zechariah proclaim John will do, and what God will do?*
- *Where do you need Jesus' gift of forgiveness today?*
- *Where do you need him to guide your feet in paths of peace?*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30: MARY'S HOPEFUL RESPONSE

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BEAUTY IN

Read: Luke 1:26-38

- Do the angel's words in verse 37 bring you hope? How does trusting God's promises for you give you hope?
- In verse 38, Mary's answer is both courageous and full of faith. Are there things God is asking you to courageously trust him for in faith in your life today?

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1: FINDING HOPE IN WHAT GOD SEES

Read: Matthew 1:18-23

- Joseph was crushed. He assumed Mary had been unfaithful. God revealed the opposite was true! Mary was faithful to courageously accept this calling from God!
- Are there situations troubling you about someone in your life, saying or doing things you don't understand? Ask the Lord to show you what he sees and give you the grace to look for the best in them.
- Joseph is also courageous in putting his faith and hope in God's promise. What hope is the Lord asking you to trust him for today?

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2: HOPE SHINES

Read: John 1:1-14

- The living word who spoke light into the world entered his creation! Does the darkness ever seem stronger than the light to you? How does verse 5 bring you hope?
- Take a moment to talk to your Savior. Receive him, believe in his name, and know that through him, you have been made a child of God.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3: THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Read: John 8:12

- Look over this last week. What has the Lord been showing you about how he wants you to trust him to be the light in your life?

CANDLE TWO: LOVE

WEEK TWO FAMILY DEVOTION: DECEMBER 4

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Bible
Pens/Pencils
Advent Wreath & Candles
Lighter/Matches

OPTIONAL:

Device for Music
Blank Paper
Scissors
Markers

Light the "Hope" candle before you begin.

SET THE SCENE: Read aloud:

After God set his people free from slavery in Egypt, they began the hard work of becoming a free nation. It didn't always go well. They made many enemies, and God had to rescue them again and again. Eventually, they grew tired of depending on God for protection—they wanted a king, like all the other nations. They were willing to trade their freedom for the safety they thought a human king could provide. God reluctantly gave in to their demand, and a king was chosen. Things seemed to improve under King David and King Solomon, but even they fell short of the perfect king the people needed. With each successive king, the situation grew worse and worse. Finally, the kingdoms of Israel and Judah were destroyed; the people forced to once again become slaves to foreign kings. Their homes burned to the ground, along with their hopes, leaving nothing but ashes.

ICEBREAKER DISCUSSION:

- Describe a time when you felt like something was falling apart.
- How have you felt or seen God's love for you in the midst of that circumstance? It's okay to say if you haven't – talk about that!

THE ASHES

HYMN SING: Listen to the song **O Come All You Unfaithful** and/or sing it together as a family. You may also read the lyrics aloud if you prefer.

O come all you unfaithful
Come weak and unstable
Come know you are not alone
O come barren and waiting ones
Weary of praying
Come see what your God has done

Christ is born Christ is born
Christ is born for you

O come bitter and broken
Come with fears unspoken
Come taste of His perfect love
O come guilty and hiding ones
There is no need to run
See what your God has done

He's the Lamb who was given slain for our pardon
His promise is peace for those who believe
He's the Lamb who was given slain for our pardon
His promise is peace for those who believe

So come though you have nothing
Come He is the offering
Come see what your God has done

HYMN DISCUSSION:

- *What emotions does the melody stir?*
- *Pass the devotional and give family members an opportunity to circle 1-3 words or phrases that make them think of "hope."*
- *Give a chance for everyone to share why they circled those words or phrases.*
- *Discuss the following statement: "God loves us too much to let ashes be the end of our story."*

SET THE SCENE: Darken your room as much as possible, then read aloud:

God was not content to leave His people in exile and ashes. When all hope seemed lost, Love was about to make His grand entrance into the world. Not with

great fanfare or power or wealth, for He did not come to be a wealthy and powerful earthly king like his ancestor King David. Instead, the perfect incarnation of Love came in humility through the womb of Mary, a trusting teenager who said "Yes" to God's incomprehensible plan.

SCRIPTURES: Read Luke 1:26-38 & 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

For years, the Israelites longed for a perfect king who would protect them, defend them, and treat them as beloved children of God. Human king after human king failed them. But now a perfect King was coming, one who would love them so deeply and unconditionally that they wouldn't even understand it. **Light the "Love" candle.**

His perfect love is still hard for us to understand. We struggle to reconcile God's love with the painful experiences in our lives when everything feels as though it has crumbled to ashes. But God never was nor ever will be content to leave us abandoned in our suffering. Love is on the way, dear ones. Christ is born...for you.

BRING IT HOME:

- *When have you felt the least loved?*
- *When have you felt the most loved? Have young children cut out a paper heart and draw or write their answer.*

WRAP UP:

In our world, love is often framed as transactional: "I love this person because they do this for me." We make love all about "giving and getting." That's not love; it's consumerism. Unfortunately, we often view our relationship with God through this lens. "God must love me less because of that big sin I'm hiding," or "God will love me more if I do this big thing for him," or "God must be angry with me because my life is falling apart." The truth is God's love *for* us doesn't depend *on* us. Full stop. God's love is the same for you, regardless of your circumstances. God's love is the same for you,

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JOY IN THE

whether your life is sunshine and roses or going up in flames.

Pray this blessing over your family: *May you always know and experience the depth, width, and height of God's unconditional and unchanging love for you. Amen.*

Close your time by listening to or singing your family's favorite Christmas carol.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5: FOR GOD SO LOVED

Read: John 3:16-17

- *The world is a broken place. We keep trying to build a life for ourselves untouched by that brokenness, but by our own power, we soon wither and fade. But seeing our need, God does not enter our story to condemn but to save. Our own actions condemn us. Jesus' actions redeem us. God's love for us moves us from the condemned to those who receive eternal life.*
- *Do you believe God so loved you? Confess to him those things that are convicting you. Let his love bring*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6: GOD'S LOVE RESTORES

Read: Ezekiel 37:1-14

- *What does this story reveal to you about God's heart?*
- *What can you learn from Ezekiel's response to God?*
- *What is the Lord saying to you about what he wants to restore in your life today?*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7: LOVE BRINGS BEAUTY FROM ASHES

Read: Isaiah 61:1-3

- *In the synagogue, Jesus reads this passage from Isaiah and tells all who hear that he fulfills*

this scripture. How do you see Jesus doing these things?

- *How does he meet you in each of these areas?*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8: MARY'S LOVE SONG

Read: Luke 1:39-56

- *God revealed the truth to Elizabeth, so she could be Mary's support. When Mary saw this gift, she burst into a song of loving praise to God!*
- *What is God saying about how God uses his power? What does this say about who he is?*
- *Mary is rejoicing that God has seen and cares about her. How has God shown you he sees and cares for you?*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9: LOVE BRINGS US BACK TO LIFE

Read: John 11:1-3, 17-44

- *The one who believes in Jesus will live even though they die because He is the Resurrection and the Life. Sometimes we, too, wonder (as in verses 36-37) if God really loves us, why he allows death? Although death has its day in the world, for those who belong to Jesus, it can't have the last word.*
- *In Jesus' love, his word is life. Bring your questions and grief to Jesus today, as you trust him to be the resurrection and the life for you.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10: LOVE NEVER FAILS

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

- *While things of the earth fade away, God's love never fails. Things seem hazy and dim to us now, but we will see clearly one day. What has the Lord shown you this week?*
- *Lord, help us live in faith; in hope in what you are doing and in the Love that holds us.,*

THE DESERT

CANDLE THREE: JOY

WEEK THREE FAMILY DEVOTION: DECEMBER 11

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Bible
Advent Wreath & Candles
Lighter/Matches

OPTIONAL:

Device for Music
Blank Paper
Paper/Pens

Light the Hope and Love candles before you begin.

SET THE SCENE: *Read aloud:*

While God's people were living in exile, God spoke to a faithful young man living in Babylon named Daniel. God told Daniel of four empires that would rise before the coming of the promised Messiah. Daniel's visions were like a treasure map, pointing the way through history to the ultimate Treasure. His visions were passed down through the centuries from treasure seeker to treasure seeker.

Until, one day, the signs in the sky became clear to a group of treasure seekers known as the Magi: a new King of the Jews was to be born. Imagine their joy at realizing that, after years of waiting and longing to find this great Treasure in their lifetimes, the time had finally come. Little did they know that their quest would change their lives forever.

ICEBREAKER DISCUSSION:

- *What is something in your life that you have joyfully treasured?*
- *What was your life like before you met Jesus? How has it changed since you met Jesus?*

HYMN SING: Listen to your favorite version of **We Three Kings** or sing it together as a family

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Heaven sings 'Alleluia': 'Alleluia'
the earth replies!

HYMN DISCUSSION:

- *What emotions does the melody stir?*
- *Pass the devotional around and give family members an opportunity to circle a phrase in the lyrics that stands out to them.*
- *Give a chance for everyone to share why they circled those words or phrases.*

SET THE SCENE: *Darken your room as much as possible, then read aloud:*

Opening their own treasure chests, the Magi set out from their home to find the newborn king foretold by Daniel. Upon their arrival in Jerusalem, they found there was no newborn child in King Herod's court. Unknowingly, they had walked right into a trap – they announced their search for a new king right in front of an old and jealous king! Imagine their once - great joy disintegrating into confusion

PEACE IN

and fear as they faced an impossible choice: to return home, their quest unfulfilled, or to continue their quest with the threat of an evil king looming over them.

SCRIPTURES: Read Matthew 2:1-12

SET THE SCENE: *Darken your room as much as possible, then read aloud:*

The Scriptures tell us that the Magi continued their search. Imagine their relief at escaping the clutches of the wicked old king! Matthew 2:10 tells us, "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." After a harrowing detour on their journey, the treasure seekers could finally see the light once again guiding them to the Treasure they sought, and they were filled with great joy. **Light the "Joy" candle.**

Imagine their fear, confusion, and weariness melting away into joy as they saw the Child in His mother's lap. So overjoyed were our treasure seekers that they became treasure givers – joyfully laying down their worldly treasures before the One who came to save the world.

BRING IT HOME:

- *When have you experienced fear or sorrow turning into joy? What was that like?*
- *Optional: On a large piece of paper, write the word "Joy" in the middle. Pass the piece of paper and a pen around to allow family members to write down words they associate with "Joy." Draw arrows from the new words pointing back to "Joy." See how many words you can fit on the paper that your family associates with "Joy."*

WRAP UP:

Contrary to traditional beliefs about the origin of the Magi, some recent scholarship suggests that they came from a neighboring kingdom known at the time as Nabataea rather than the Far East. The Nabataean Kingdom controlled the trade routes through the dangerous Arabian desert

because only they knew where to find the secret water reservoirs that made desert travel possible. Although their people controlled the water their physical bodies needed, the Magi thirsted for more. They experienced spiritual thirst in a dry, dusty desert. Meeting Herod was like seeing a mirage in the desert. But when they met Jesus – they knew they had found an oasis of Living Water, and would finally thirst no more. Their joy was complete!

Pray this blessing over your family: *When it feels like life has drained your joy, may Jesus be your oasis. Hear His words to the woman at the well and receive them in your heart: "Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst." Amen.*

Close your time by listening to or singing your family's favorite Christmas carol.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12: DRAWN BY JOY!

Read: Isaiah 60:1-7

- *Isaiah prophesies when the Lord's saving presence dawns on the earth, Nations, and Kings will be drawn to him, bringing gold and incense (6)! What kinds of gifts bring the Lord Joy when we offer them?*
- *Verses 4 and 5 talk about the joy of being restored together in relationship. As you enter God's presence, lift up the eyes of your heart to him.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13: FOLLOW IN JOY

Read: Matthew 2:1-6

- *The Magi came seeking one sent by God because they noticed what those in God's own temple had not! May we, as God's people, not miss how God is showing the world who he is today! How do friends who don't consider themselves Christians think of God?*
- *Can you see how God may be introducing himself to them in ways that might lead them through the desert to seek him? How might we serve as an oasis on that journey?*

A STABLE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14: OUR JOYFUL OASIS

Read: John 4:10-14

- *Jesus reveals the purpose of his coming into the world when speaking to this outcast woman at the well - to be the source of living water for all who will come to him. In relationship with him, Jesus' life and salvation become in us a well of living water that continues to sustain us.*
- *"If you knew the gift of God"- What is the gift Jesus is for you? How do you experience his living water in the desert of life?*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15: JOY DRAWN OUT!

Read: Isaiah 12:2-6

- *If you lived in a desert culture, how might a well be a symbol for you of God's saving presence? What does it mean today for us to, with Joy, draw water from the well of our salvation?*
- *What helps you take in and receive the promises of God? Draw out Joy!*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16: GOD'S JOYFUL PURPOSES

Read: Isaiah 55:1-13

- *In these verses, what does the Lord do? What are we asked to do? What promises do you see in these words? What is the Lord saying to you today?*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17: OVERJOYED!

Read: 1 Matthew 2:7-12

- *The Magi were 'overjoyed' to see the star they had been following had stopped (was centered over) the place where Jesus was found. They'd found their King! Where do you find joy in your worship of Jesus this season among all the 'Christmas bustle'? What makes it hard to find? He is the true gift!*

CANDLE FOUR: P&A&E

WEEK FOUR FAMILY DEVOTION: DECEMBER 18

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Bible
Advent Wreath & Candles
Lighter/Matches

OPTIONAL:

Device for Music
Blank Paper
Paper/Pens

Light the Hope, Love, and Joy candles before you begin.

SET THE SCENE: *Read aloud:*

The time had come! The long-awaited King made his grand entrance into the world. Except, the stable wasn't very grand. And most of the world didn't know or care that He had entered it. So why be born in a smelly stable to poor and oppressed parents?

God could have chosen any number of places to enter the world. He could have grown up in a Roman palace and been the next Roman Emperor. He could have ruled over every land that Rome had conquered and enjoyed every luxurious comfort and carnal joy known to man.

So why didn't he? Because his mission was not to be like human kings who enjoy life's pleasures while their people suffer. Instead, Jesus' mission was to bring shalom: God's version of peace. Shalom allows all people to live in harmony with God and one another. Shalom restores what is broken and heals what is wounded.

ICEBREAKER DISCUSSION:

- *What does the word peace mean to you? Optional: On a piece of paper, create your own family definition of peace.*

HYMN SING: Listen to your favorite version of the hymn ***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*** or sing it together.

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PEACE O

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And you beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

HYMN DISCUSSION:

- *Pass the devotional around and give family members an opportunity to circle a phrase in the lyrics that stands out to them.*
- *Give a chance for everyone to share why they circled those words or phrases.*

SET THE SCENE: Read aloud:

The Roman empire boasted of establishing the

policy of "Pax Romana" (Roman peace) throughout their conquered lands. But Pax Romana was a false peace because the Roman standard for peace was simply a lack of fighting and military conflicts. That kind of peace isn't hard to keep when you have the most efficient military machine in the world. Unfortunately, this peace also came at the cost of the people suffering under Rome's cruelty and corruption.

SCRIPTURES: Read Luke 2:1-20 & John 14:27

SET THE SCENE: *Darken your room as much as possible, then read:*

Mary was looking forward to meeting her newborn son. But at nine months pregnant, Roman greed forced her and Joseph to undertake a dangerous four-day journey walking ninety miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. What terrible timing! No wonder she went into labor!

Rather than the peaceful home birth she had hoped for, Mary and Joseph have to improvise in a stable far from home. Imagine the emotions they might have felt: embarrassment, humiliation, desperation, panic, fear, anger, rejection, shame. And then, into the midst of all those chaotic human emotions, Jesus – the King of Peace – was born. **Light the Peace candle.**

BRING IT HOME:

- *When do you feel the most at peace?*
Optional: Have each family member write out the word PEACE vertically. Write a word beginning with each letter of PEACE that describes your definition of peace or things that help you feel at peace.

WRAP UP:

Have you ever wondered why Jesus came into the world when He did? Scholars have proposed that Jesus came as soon as He could. At the time of the Roman empire, three important resources were all available: roads, durable paper, and Roman Peace. Roads protected by Rome made travel to faraway lands accessible to missionaries. Durable paper

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meant they could carry copies of New Testament letters to spread the Good News. If He'd come any earlier, Jesus would have been a mere footnote in history. Instead, He came at the perfect time to change the world.

Pray this blessing from Hebrews 13:20-21 over your family: *"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

Close your time by listening to or singing your family's favorite Christmas carol.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19: PEACE IN BEING HUMAN

Read: Philippians 2:5-11

- Theologian Michael Himes wrote: *"The Incarnation is the highest compliment ever paid to being human. It is also the divine response to our original sin. If the originating sin...is the rejection of the goodness of being a human being, the Incarnation is the unsurpassable revelation of that goodness."* Lord, give me the grace to understand what it means that God became human for me.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20: PEACE IN A STABLE

Read: Luke 2:1-7

- *It's hard to imagine how chaotic the trip to Bethlehem must have felt. As strange as it seems, perhaps being in the place no one else wanted to be gave Mary and Joseph the privacy and peace they needed.*
- *In those moments when life seems chaotic and peace seems hard to find, help me see your peace even in the stables of life, where you are at work to redeem and restore.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21: PEACE TO SHEPHERDS

Read: Luke 2:8-20

- *The terror of the shepherds soon became wonder. That led to a longing for them to see the truth of what they heard.*
- *Lord, help us share the good news in a way others see it as the good news it is for them. Help us encourage others to seek this truth for themselves like the shepherds did, "Let's go and see this thing that the Lord has told us about!"*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22: ON EARTH, PEACE

Read: Luke 2:13-14 & John 16:33

- *Having peace on earth doesn't mean we have no trouble! In fact, Jesus assures us we will. The gift of peace Jesus gives us is in knowing that in him, there is a bigger promise that holds us. Give to the Lord what is disturbing your peace today - and receive the peace the Savior came to give you, even now, here on earth!*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23: PEACE, NOT AS THE WORLD GIVES

Read: John 14:27

- *It is hard sometimes not to let our hearts be troubled or afraid. Our God is with us even in our fear. What Jesus is saying is, in the words of C.S. Lewis: "Courage, dear heart." Because he came for you, you are not, and never will be without him. Hold on to that promise today.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24: HE IS OUR PEACE

Read: Ephesians 2:12-22

- *Jesus is our Peace. He is the one who reconciles us to God and each other. Lord, help us today to see one another the way you see us- as beloved ones you died to redeem and welcome home. Be our peace today.*

Merry Christmas

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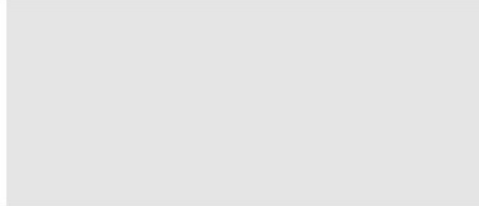
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hello@gracepeople.church
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Do You Pick Up Your Current at the Church?

To be good stewards of CGLC resources like postage, we ask that you prayerfully consider picking up your copy of the *Current* from the church.

Then, please email us at mark@gracepeople.church or call (651) 429-5349 to have your household removed from the *Current* mailing list.

Thank you!



TO BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

