





We're grateful to share this Advent and Scripture Reading calendar with you!

We pray that it will bless you and your family and become your companion

— along with God's Word — throughout this Christmas season.

Here's what you'll find in the calendar:



Advent Devotionals, Dwell Scripture Readings, and Family Activities for December 3–24.



A special Christmas Day Devotional for December 25.



Dwell Scripture Readings for December 26, 2023–January 5, 2024.

Greatest blessings to you as you center your heart around the birth of Christ our Savior, in whom "the weary world rejoices!"

Sunday, December 3 | Isaiah 7:14

Starting from The Book of Genesis in the garden of Eden, to the Book of Revelation, where we attend the marriage supper of the Lamb, one theme is consistent—God is with us.

God wanted to be with us so much that when our relationship in the garden of Eden broke, he made another way. He sent Jesus to dwell among us. Heaven literally came to earth.

Friend, do you wonder if God is with you? You are not alone. For many years, I struggled with abandonment. I believed God didn't care about my pain and suffering; however, in my wrestling with God, I found a Savior who walked with me through the trials, not magically fixing them, but letting them play out over time.

And that has made all the difference.

If you are struggling this holiday season, draw near to Jesus. He is with you as you walk through your trials, always by your side. Will you take his hand and walk together with him?

♦ JULIE PLAGENS



Prayer

Heavenly Father, during this Advent season, helps us to prepare our hearts to welcome Emmanuel, God with us, into our lives with gratitude and joy.

A Family Activity

Listen to the song, O Holy Night. Use this time to think about the fact that Jesus came to be with us.



Monday, December 4 | Isaiah 6:8

s Isaiah dwelt in the presence of the Lord, he experienced God's holiness and recognized his own sin. He desperately confessed all to God, who provided atonement and removed Isaiah's guilt. Everyone needed to know this! All have sinned and are doomed to destruction without the redeeming power of God. After such a profound experience, Isaiah was eager to tell others.

Likewise, after the shepherds met the living God in the form of a baby, they "spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child."

The gospel is simple: every person who has ever lived has a sin nature which separates us from a Holy God. Because of his great love for us, however, Jesus provides redemption if we only admit our sin and believe in him.

Have you experienced God's redeeming love? If so, who will you tell? Your neighbors? Co-workers? Classmates? Where is he sending you? Vickery? South Texas? Nepal? Here am I, Lord. Send me.

♦ JERRY AND LAURIE EWING

A Family Activity

Look at a large map or globe. Pick out a country and pray for that country, their leaders, and that the gospel will be spread in that country. Then, consider joining us on one of our mission opportunities during this season or next year.

Day 2

Prayer

Lord, during this Advent season, may we, like Isaiah, say, "Here am I; send me," and be willing partners in your divine plan, spreading the message of hope, love, and salvation to the world. Amen.



Tuesday, December 5 | Isaiah 2:4

n our world, peace is often something that is enforced. When nations or peoples are in conflict, or there are volatile places within our country, we find the solution is to have more preventive forces: more soldiers, more flyovers, more police officers.

At Christmas, we are reminded that God's ways are not our ways. That swords and spears are remade into implements of flourishing not by a great general, a new weapon, or increased force; but by a baby in a manger, a lamb led to the slaughter, a king who dies for his people.

If there is conflict in your life (and let's be honest, who doesn't have conflict?), rather than seeking to win by overpowering your adversary, seek to win by sacrificing for them, suffering for them, and dying for them. Make God's ways your ways.

+ TRAVIS COOK

Day 3

Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we enter this Advent season, we pray that you transform our hearts and our world so that we may seek peace and reconciliation in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

A Family Activity

Consider doing something sacrificial as a family. This means taking time out of your calendar to do something nice for someone else. You can bake cookies together as a family and deliver them to a neighbor or several of them. Let this offering be one of kindness and peace.



Wednesday, December 6 | Isaiah 9:2

saiah prophesied that the Messiah would be a light in the darkness. Then Jesus came and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life" (John 8:12).

John tells us, "His life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). But how will his light shine in the darkness? Well, Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world."

So be encouraged, even if you find yourself in a dark place. Let's follow him and through the Holy Spirit in our lives, "let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father" (Matt. 5:16).

♦ LISETTA LAYER



Prayer

Lord, as we journey through this
Advent season, we pray that the Light of the World — Jesus Christ — would shine brightly in our hearts, dispelling darkness and guide us with your love and truth.

A Family Activity

Gather up the family to drive around the neighborhood and look at Christmas lights. Be reminded that Jesus is "the light of the world."



Thursday, December 7 | Isaiah 9:6

Through this verse, Isaiah prophesies that the purpose of Christ's coming was for "us." Jesus was not just thought into being once he was placed in Mary's womb, but from eternity, God planned to give him to us.

As you read through the names, pause at each one, and discuss as a family or with a group of friends why you think Jesus would have been called these important names. I land on Prince of Peace as one to think through. Peace in the Old Testament is the opposite of not only war, but of anything that disturbs the common well-being of the nation. Peace is spoken of in many ways including bodily health, good relations between nations and people, and salvation.

As Jesus reigns, there will be no end to the peace. In this advent season, we can rest assured that God brings peace and sent his Son to bring that same peace to our world through his life.

♦ SHELBY TODD



Prayer

Heavenly Father,
during this Advent
season, we lift our
hearts in prayer,
thanking you for
the gift of Jesus, the
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
and Prince of Peace,
who brings hope
and salvation to
our lives.

A Family Activity

Recite or memorize Isaiah 9:6-7 together as a family. As you proclaim each title given to Jesus, think about what that means for you and your family. Share those thoughts with each other.



Friday, December 8 | Isaiah 11:1-2

y family and I love to travel. During a recent trip to Europe, we decided to rent a car and embark on a multi-day family adventure! As we traveled, we made sure to take our time as we explored all that the country had to offer. Why? Because each day we were determined to slow down and appreciate the journey we were on.

The story of Christmas is also a journey; one born in God's heart because of love! God promised long ago through the prophet Isaiah that he would send a deliverer. Isaiah 11:1-2 reads, "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him...." God devised a plan to send Jesus on a journey into this broken world where he would provide hope for all mankind through salvation. The question now is: Will you let Jesus be a part of your personal journey?

◆ DR. ROLANDO D. AGUIRRE

Day 6

Prayer

Lord, during this
Advent season, we
ask that the Spirit
of the Lord may
rest upon us in
a special way,
bringing wisdom,
understanding,
counsel, and strength
as we await the
coming celebration
of your Anointed
One, Jesus.

A Family Activity

Talk about the next year in your journey as a family. As you do this, take time to set family goals for the new year and beyond. What is God telling you? Where do you need to spread the love of God? Who needs to hear the good news in your family, community, or work? Take time to write some of these things down and talk about them as a family over the next couple of days.



Saturday, December 9 | Isaiah 11:1-9

saiah 11 speaks of the true, righteous king of Israel who will one day rule over God's people with a loving and kind hand. This king will come from the stump of Jesse, David's father. We see this family tree of kings who were supposed to point people to God and his love, but they were cut down because of their sin. Out of that stump, though, comes the branch — Jesus.

He is our good and loving King. He has come to protect us from the evils of this world and the evils within our own hearts. He promises to give us a new heart and one day create a world like we see in verses 6-9, where our hearts will be fully reconciled towards the God who we once rejected.

Take a moment and imagine what that world will be like and thank God for sending his Son to secure it for us.

+ TAYLOR LOWERY

Day 7

Prayer

Gracious God,
during this Advent
season, instill in us
a spirit of wisdom
and discernment,
that we may work
toward a world
where justice,
peace, and harmony
prevail as foretold
in Isaiah 11, through
the coming of our
Savior, Jesus Christ.

A Family Activity

Take some time at dinner and do "High/Low/Buffalo/Gratitude." Each person shares about their best moment of the day, their lowest moment of the day, their weirdest/unique moment of the day, and something they are grateful for.



Sunday, December 10 | Isaiah 40:1-3

saiah 40 begins by reminding us that it is God who comforts us in the middle of the worries and fears of the world. The Advent season can feel like a rollercoaster of ups and downs, but let's take a moment to find peace in God's great love and forgiveness. It is with that same truth that verse three prophesies John the Baptist who prepared the way for the Messiah. John found joy in this truth and wanted to proclaim it to everyone.

This Advent season, let's not only find comfort in God's love but also get our hearts ready for Jesus to come and be with us.

♦ REBEKAH AND SAMUEL MOMPREMIER

A Family Activity

Nothing is more comfortable than snuggling on the couch together as a family. If it's cold, you might even need a warm blanket. Take time to sit on the couch and watch a Christmas movie together as a family. Include hot chocolate and cookies to add warmth to the moment. As you do this, be reminded of the joy and comfort found in God's love.

Day 8

Prayer

Dear Lord,
in this season
of Advent, open
our eyes to those
who need
comforting, and
help us to do our
part to prepare
a way for the
good news of your
Son to provide that
comfort for them.



Monday, December 11 | Isaiah 40:11

good shepherd takes care of the sheep of his fold; he lovingly leads them, and he gently guides them. In the Old Testament, Isaiah describes God as a loving shepherd. In the New Testament, Jesus calls himself "the good shepherd" (John 10:11).

As we reread the Christmas story this season, pause to think about the first people to hear of Jesus' birth – the shepherds. They did not keep the good news of Jesus' birth a secret. They immediately went and told others that the Messiah had been born. They knew that Jesus would lead them in a very different way than the kings of their day. They knew that this baby would one day be the shepherd they had prayed for. How beautiful that the King of Kings chose to call himself a shepherd.

Do you consider Jesus to be the shepherd of your life? In what ways do you allow him to guide you? In what areas are you reluctant to let him lead you?

+ CATHERINE RHOADES

A Family Activity

Do a Candy Cane Scavenger Hunt and talk about the significance of the candy cane. For the scavenger hunt, hide candy canes around the house for kids to search and find. In 1847, a German candy maker from Ohio named August Imgard, made a candy to symbolize Christ. The cane's "J" shape stands for Jesus; when turned upside-down, it becomes a shepherd's staff. The white color signifies purity, the red represents Christ's blood shed for the world's sins, and the three red stripes symbolize the trinity.

Day 9

Prayer

Gracious Father,
during this Advent
season, we seek your
comfort and guidance,
knowing that, like a
gentle shepherd, you
gather all those who
place their faith in you
in your arms and carry
us close to your heart,
which you have aptly
demonstrated through
the life, death, and
resurrection of our Good
Shepherd, Jesus Christ.



Tuesday, December 12 | Isaiah 52:13-53:12

his is one of the most striking prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. It poetically describes Christ's trials, suffering, and sacrifice on the cross. In this passage, Christ is described in many ways, including as "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (53:3), as one who has "borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" (53:4), and one who was feeling the "anguish of his soul" (53:11).

This Advent season, as we approach the celebration of Jesus' birth and all of the joyful events surrounding it, it's okay not to feel joy or happiness or peace. Isaiah tells us that Jesus felt as some of us do today — grief, full of sorrow and pain, and in anguish over the way of the world and how he was treated.

Know this today: Jesus understands you, he loves you, and it's okay to feel as you do, because he is with you every step of the way.

♦ NOAH WILSON

Day 10

Prayer

Heavenly Father, during this Advent season, we reflect on the suffering of your Servant as described by Isaiah, and we thank you for the redemptive love and healing brought to the world through the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

A Family Activity

Make a prayer garland. Using strips of paper, write down prayers for yourself, your family, and for others.



Wednesday, December 13 | Isaiah 53:1-12

The picture of the suffering servant in Isaiah 53:1—12 has always deeply resonated with me. In it, the anointed one of God is promised to suffer on behalf of those he came to save. On the cross, our transgressions are laid upon him. Amidst the realization of this promise, we become like Barabbas in the story of the crucifixion of Jesus. He takes our place and bears the punishment we deserved. Through this, we are set free from sin and reconciled into right relationship with God.

The Advent season arrives with an invitation to identify again with the completion of this promise in the incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ. The invitation is this: be conformed to the image of God's Son, our Savior, who willingly intercedes on behalf of those who have wronged him. We are invited into the cruciform life. I invite you to take a moment and intercede in prayer on behalf of someone who has wronged you or treated others unjustly, that they would be reconciled to God as well.

+ CORBIN SMITH



Prayer

Heavenly Father, during this Advent season, grant us the strength and compassion to intercede on behalf of those who have wronged us, extending forgiveness and seeking reconciliation, as we remember the grace and forgiveness offered to us through our Savior, lesus Christ.



Take time to pray for families by using their Christmas cards. Remember that this season is joyful for many, but can be sorrowful for others.



Thursday, December 14 | Isaiah 55:8-9

To be holy is to be set apart. God is holy because he is without sin. Verses like this might discourage a person seeking the Lord, thinking that because God's ways are so different from ours, they could never find a closeness with him. However, these verses were written in context of the compassion one might experience upon seeking the Lord — a compassion that is both surprising and overwhelming. These verses are a call to turn back to God.

When Jesus was born, the Father further reiterated this desire to extend compassion to those whose sins would condemn them. Jesus would be the standard of holiness, while fully accessible to those who desire to turn from their sins. With your eyes on Jesus, take time today to confess and turn to him, knowing that there is a supernatural grace and a compassionate Savior waiting for you.

+ DR. HAN OH

Day 12

Prayer

Loving God, in this Advent season, we humbly acknowledge your higher ways and wisdom, and we pray for the grace to align our lives with your divine plan as we turn our lives wholly towards you.

A Family Activity

A small act of compassion goes a long way. What if you make homemade Christmas cards for some of our in-home members? You can even drop them off at the church and we will deliver these special gifts to our friends.



Friday, December 15 | Luke 1:1-2

uke tells us that at the time of his writing many had attempted to compose a narrative of the life and ministry of Jesus. Today, however, we observe quite the opposite phenomenon, as our culture is no longer eager to present and hand down the story of our Savior. This is even more observable during Advent. We have replaced the time to celebrate and ponder on the incarnation of God who brings salvation to the world, with adorned trees, colorful packages, and cheerful music. These are all good and fun traditions, but don't let these things replace the true meaning of Christmas.

It's the greatest news ever proclaimed, and it must be handed down to the next generation and proclaimed to those around us.

♦ LORENZO ARTAMI



Prayer

Heavenly Father, in this Advent season, empower us to joyfully proclaim the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Savior, who brings true hope, authentic love, and redemption from the bondage of sin to the world.

A Family Activity

Share the Christmas story with your family, and either build a manger scene or observe one and talk about what the birth of Jesus means for the world. Use Luke 2 as a guide.



Saturday, December 16 | Luke 1:39-45

fter Mary was told by Gabriel that she would give birth to the Son of God, the first thing she does strikes me as strange. If I were in her place, I probably would have had a meltdown immediately following that conversation, but Mary surprises me. She accepts what she's been told, then runs to her cousin and trusted friend, Elizabeth.

In times of confusion and unknowns, we need our community more than ever. Mary ran to Elizabeth because she knew she would be encouraged by her, strengthened to follow the will of God and obey him in all things. Refreshed by Elizabeth's spirit-filled words, Mary then bursts into song, praising and glorifying God for all he has done.

This Advent season, maybe you need to reach out to a friend and be refreshed by their words. Or maybe you need to encourage someone who is in a difficult season. Be open to where the Holy Spirit leads you and how your heart may be stirred by him.

+ CASSIDY DAVIS

Day
14

Prayer

Dear Lord, during this Advent season, we give thanks for the gift of Christian friendships that encourage and strengthen our faith, reminding us of the importance of living out our faith with love and support for one another.

A Family Activity

Do you receive a lot of packages during the Christmas season? What if you left some snacks for those delivery drivers? We hope this will be encouraging to those who have a busy season of deliveries and cultivate community around you.



Sunday, December 17 | Luke 1:39-45

hortly after Mary learned she would bear the Son of God, she visited Elizabeth. When Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John, heard Mary's greeting, her baby leapt in her womb. She and John were filled with the Spirit. Elizabeth then testified to the unique favor that rested upon her Lord. Though Elizabeth and the unborn John could not appropriately respond to Jesus' nearness on their own, God gave them the grace to do so by filling them with the Spirit. For it is only by the Spirit that anyone calls Jesus "Lord."

It is vital that we do not miss that proximity to Jesus requires a response. Then and today, the preliminary response is one of either acceptance or rejection. But if you have accepted him, the question becomes: will you seek to live filled with the Spirit so that your whole life may be a worthy response? How will you respond to the prompting of God in your life today?

+ CHRISTINA FAUST

Day 15

Prayer

Gracious God, in this Advent season, grant us the discernment and courage to respond faithfully to your promptings in our lives, aligning our hearts with your perfect purpose and plan.

A Family Activity

Make a "Thank You Jesus" stocking. Parents, whenever your child does something kind or loving during this season, write it down and put it in their stocking. Whenever they open their stocking, take a moment to remember and thank Jesus for helping them be kind and loving.



Monday, December 18 | Luke 2:8-20

often wonder what it was like to be a shepherd in ancient Israel. For one set of shepherds, while tending their sheep one night in the wilderness, a bright light burst upon them and an angel revealed the most exciting news that the world had been waiting for. It must have been a frightening experience for them. In the middle of their ordinary day, God bursts into these shepherds' lives and invites them, "the least of these," to witness the world's most prestigious event — the birth of the Savior.

Just as God demonstrated his love and care for the lowly shepherds, it's a great reminder for us that we are both known and loved by God, and we too should care for the vulnerable and the lost by inviting them to be part of God's kingdom.

As we celebrate this wonderful season of the birth of our Savior, let us all be filled with reverence, approach God in awe, share the good news with excitement, and be filled with overwhelming joy!

+ VINOD THURAKA

Day 16

Prayer

Heavenly Father, during this Advent season, stir us to emulate the compassion of Jesus by caring for the vulnerable and the lost, offering them hope and love as your Word calls us to do.

A Family Activity

It can be Christmas year-round if you want it to be! Spend time making hot chocolate (or chocolate milk because it's Texas) and decorating cookies. Reflect on the joy of the Christmas season together, enjoying the little things and praising God for all he has done.



Tuesday, December 19 | Luke 2:13-14

It's easy to think that Christ was special because he was surrounded by angels (after all, I've never seen angels announce a baby's birth!). But the opposite is closer to the truth. As Gabriel tells Zechariah, angels are special because they are in the presence of God (Luke 1:19). Being with God—not being praised by his creatures—is what counts.

The miracle of Christmas is that God lived among people and brought his presence to earth. Because of Christmas, God's presence is no longer reserved for the holy and majestic. He invited despised shepherds to see him, a peasant woman to hold him, and pagan astronomers to bring him gifts. They joined in with the angels in praising God, a joy they could not have imagined before.

We have this same opportunity. God tore the curtain that divided us from him, and he invites us to come to him. We can go to his throne with all confidence because he has adopted us as his own children. So yes, come, all of us who are sinful, come joyful and triumphant. Let's adore him: the King of angels, the Lord over all, the One who came to us.

+ NATHAN HOLDEN

A Family Activity

Sing a Christmas hymn together. Here's a few suggestions: O Come, All Ye Faithful; O Come Let Us Adore Him; Angels We Have Heard on High; The First Noel.



Prayer

Dear Lord, in this Advent season, fill our hearts with a contagious and enduring joy as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



 $0.010^{\circ}0$

Wednesday, December 20 | Luke 2:1-20

From my earliest memories, between Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, my family has quoted the Christmas Story from Luke 2 together each day, a tradition that has now been passed down through four generations. For me, one of the most convicting parts of this incredible story is found in these verses.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ "And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

²⁰ "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

My prayer for this season is that having seen the Messiah with our own eyes, we cannot help but give glory and praise to the Father for his indescribable gift.

♦ KEITH LOWRY

Day 18

Prayer

Gracious Father, in this Advent season, we lift our voices in gratitude, giving glory and praise for the precious gift of Jesus—the Messiah—our Redeemer and Sustainer.

A Family Activity

Read the Christmas story from Luke 2. Bake/buy cupcakes or a cake and decorate it for Jesus. May this be an exciting moment as you celebrate the joy of Jesus' birthday!



Thursday, December 21 | Luke 2:19

uke 2:19 tells us of Mary, the mother of Jesus, who treasured the extraordinary events surrounding the birth of her son in her heart. She pondered them deeply. Mary's response serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of reflection and gratitude in our faith journey.

In our fast-paced world, it's easy to rush through life's moments without truly cherishing them. Mary's example encourages us to pause, reflect, and hold close the precious experiences and blessings God grants us. Just as she pondered the miraculous birth of Jesus, we should consider how God is working in our lives.

Let's take time today to ponder God's goodness, his grace, and the moments that shape our faith. In doing so, we'll find a deeper connection with God, an increased sense of gratitude, and a heart filled with the wonder of his love as we remember his perfect birth.

+ MORGAN WOMACK

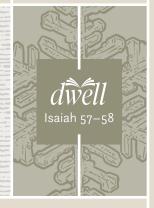
Day 10

Prayer

Heavenly Father, during this Advent season, remind us to pause, reflect, and cultivate a heart of gratitude as we recognize the blessing and the significance of the birth of Jesus Christ.

A Family Activity

Make paper snowflakes. As you make each one, remember that God created each snowflake uniquely, just like he created us.



Friday, December 22 | Isaiah 26:3

o many things in life are temporary. Those of us who have lost a loved one unexpectedly know this all too well. But also consider the small things in life that are fleeting: a snowflake on your tongue or a magnificent sunset sinking into the horizon.

The Peace of Christ is not fleeting or temporary, but steadfast and unwavering. Whatever you face this week, be mindful of the Prince of Peace who has overcome the world so that you might know hope, love, joy and peace. Share this peace that surpasses all understanding with others who are without peace not only this season, but every day.

Will you abide in the peace we have through Christ or rely on what the world tries to give you?

+ RODNEY SCHELL

Day 20

Prayer

Heavenly Father, grant us the peace described in this verse, a perfect peace that comes from trusting in your Son, the Prince of Peace.

A Family Activity

A way to share the message of peace is through offering something that points people to Christ. Think about a mission opportunity as a family. Then set aside money or raise money for one of our mission partners. Let that gift be an offering that helps spread the love of Jesus.



Saturday, December 23 | Luke 2:25–32

Valuable time. Simeon understood waiting. Simeon had received a promise from God that he would not see death until he had seen the Christ. We do not know how long Simeon waited to see Jesus, but we know that he was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he rejoiced when he held Jesus in his arms. I love his words, "for my eyes have seen your salvation that you prepared in the presence of all the peoples." What a gift after waiting so long!

What about you? What are you waiting for now? How long have you been praying for an answer? Perhaps the answer can be found by looking into the eyes of the one who gives us salvation and respite from our waiting — Jesus.

♦ DR. KELLY HAMILTON

Day 21

Prayer

Dear Lord,
help us, like Simeon,
to recognize and
declare to others
the precious gift
of salvation
that Jesus Christ
is to all people.

A Family Activity

You know what takes a lot of patience? Making a gingerbread house. So, why not take the time to build a gingerbread house together? When you begin to feel frustrated, remember how long Simeon waited but the excitement he had when the gift arrived.



Sunday, December 24 | Luke 1:74

Before God became man, it was impossible for us to behold him or to be in his presence. Humanity — separated from God because of our sin — couldn't encounter the glory of God and survive (Exodus 33:20). His presence was lethal. But, paradoxically, his presence was also life.

God's rescue plan for humanity included liberating us from everything that separated us from his presence — including fear. We no longer need to fear judgment, shame, or even death. Delivered from every enemy of our souls, we are free to live in God's endless, extravagant, and enduring love — his perfect love, that casts out all fear (1 John 4:18).

The Son of God came to live the life we should have lived and to die the death we deserved. And in so doing, he removed every barrier between us and his presence. As we celebrate the Incarnation of Christ, may we treasure the truth that he has delivered us from fear and restored us to his presence.

♦ DR. KATIE MCCOY

Day 22

ADVENT ENDS

Prayer

Loving Savior, in this Advent season, we pray for the gift of your presence, asking that you deliver us from fear and restore our hearts to the refuge of your love and grace.



Join us for our Christmas Eve services at PCBC! 9:30 a.m. | 10:45 a.m. | 2:00 p.m. | 7:00 p.m.



Monday, December 25

Christmas means we have nothing to fear.

You may have heard that the command to "fear not" is the most common command in Scripture – written 366 times, once for every day of the year, including leap year. In a world at war and filled with trouble, it's easy to think, "There is much to fear!"

But the command to be fearless is followed with, "because I am with you." The message of Christmas is, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you Good News of great joy that will be for all people" (Luke 2:10).

Christmas means we do not have to fear. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). He is Emmanuel, God with us.

Will God come through for us? Of course he will. He already did. Look at the baby in a manger. Look at the cross, at the empty tomb. You have nothing to fear.

Merry Christmas from my family to yours.

→ DR. JEFF WARREN, SENIOR PASTOR

Day 23

CHRISTMAS DAY DEVOTIONAL

Prayer

Dear Lord,
help us remember
that Christmas
means we have
nothing to fear,
for you have
brought us the gift
of perfect peace
and salvation
through the life
of your Son,
lesus Christ.

A Family Activity

As you open presents today, or spend time as a family during lunch or dinner, use this time to pray for each other. Ask God to speak to each individual of the family and for them to remember Jesus and why he came. May each person be centered on Christ and begin setting our eyes toward the cross.



And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

For unto you is in the city of David

LUKE 2:10-11



DECEMBER 26-29

Tuesday, December 26: Isaiah 59-60 Wednesday, December 27: Isaiah 61-62 Thursday, December 28: Isaiah 63-64 Friday, December 29: Isaiah 65-66

2024

Monday, January 1: Genesis 1 Tuesday, January 2: Genesis 2 Wednesday, January 3: Genesis 3 Thursday, January 4: Genesis 4 Friday, January 5: Genesis 5

