



Advent Devotions

Light a candle as a symbol of LOVE.
Love that draws near.

As Advent draws toward its fulfillment, we arrive at LOVE, the heartbeat of the season, the center of every promise. Love is God's choice to come close, to dwell among us, to be known in flesh, and light, and tenderness. In this final week of waiting, we are invited to open our hearts fully, to make room for the One who is Always With Us and Always Coming to Us. Love is both the destination and the journey itself. Love is the wonder that holds all our waiting.

"The incarnation is the place, if you will, where hope contends with fear; where God shows that love will take on flesh and dwell among us." — Frederick Buechner

As you enter the last week of this Advent journey, think about these two questions:

- Who or what are you longing to love more fully, and how might the wonder of waiting open your heart?
- What would it look like for you/your family/your community to let Christmas continue, to carry its hope, peace, joy, and love into the days that follow?

Daily Reflections

On Sunday, Dec 21, read 1 John 4:9–11.

How might you express God's love in a tangible way this week?

On Monday, Dec 22, read John 1:1–5, 14.

What does it mean for love to take on flesh in your life?

On Tuesday, Dec 23, read Luke 2:1–7. As Christ comes near, what space do you want to make for him in you? In your life? Where, if any, is there resistance in making space?

On Wednesday, Dec 24, read Titus 2:11–14. As love draws near once more, how might you open yourself to receive this gift again, or for the first time?

On Thursday, December 25, read Luke 2:8–20.

How will you carry the wonder of Christmas into the days that follow?

*"The birth of Christ is the dawn of hope,
the revelation of joy, the song of peace,
and the embodiment of love."*

– Howard Thurman