

## Discover More: Together Team Devotions

### Discover More about the Message

**More to Hope:** Advent is a season of longing and great expectation for God to fulfill promises of redemption and life. During Advent, we pay attention to both the now of God's promise given in Christ, and the not yet, that is our waiting for God to bring those promises to completion. Between the now and the not yet, we name what weighs down our hearts in the time of waiting, we look forward to what we shall see, we rejoice in anticipation, and we name our deepest hopes and longing. God will respond to our deepest hopes and longings in the birth of the Christ child.

### Discover Scripture and Life

+ Read the scripture.

#### Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

#### Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Choose one of these questions.

- + Advent is two movements. One movement/action is what we do to get ready for Christmas, to prepare our hearts for Christ. The other movement is the movement of God to humankind. In the scriptures for today, and in the general sense of Advent, we can only do so much. Advent is as much waiting for God to do what we cannot do. To bring restoration that we seem unable on our own to complete. How do you see that in the two readings today? What is your response to the idea that Advent is waiting for God to do what we cannot do ourselves?
- + Advent is more than getting ready for a past event, celebrating Jesus who was born 2000 years ago. Advent says that God keeps coming and will come again. The story of the world is not done, but the future belongs to God. Do you believe that? Or is it a hard promise to swallow?

## Together in Community

Check in with one another.

Option 1: Share a high and/or a low.

Share something good or eventful that you give thanks and praise for?

What has been a challenge or a prayer concern for you?

Option 2: One word

As you reflect about your day, what is one word that summarizes how you are feeling.

+ Close in the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## Five Minutes with God

**Introduction.** We wait every day. We wait in line, for a loved one's return, for lab results, and for the weekend. Waiting is frustrating, difficult, and sometimes scary. Advent is a whole season dedicated to waiting. We wait for Christmas, of course, but even more, in Advent we join in our world's waiting for God to bring healing and peace to the brokenness around us. This waiting rests in our hope that God always fulfills promises. God's faithfulness means that our Advent waiting can be hope-filled resting rather than fear-filled enduring.

**Spiritual Practice.** Wait and rest this week. Set aside five minutes with God in which you simply rest—no talking, no scrolling, no planning. If you become distracted or anxious, that's okay. Remind yourself that God is with you and rest the best you are able. Then, take a moment to talk to God about what this time was like for you. Try letting yourself rest with God as you wait at other times this week. Stop lights and checkout lines are good places to practice restful waiting.



**First Lutheran**  
discover more : together

Team Devotion

Nov 28-Dec 3