

Advent Companion 2020

The season of Advent is a time of waiting and watching... commemorating the anticipation of the Israelites awaiting the Messiah and remembering the promise that Jesus will one day return to take us to himself. But it is also a time to be extra mindful that the Lord wishes to come and make a home in our hearts this day and every day.

As we enter into this beautiful season of Advent, we wanted to provide you with a resource to help you enter more fully into this period of preparation through spending a little bit of time each day in prayer and reflection. If you do not already have one, we encourage you to **get a journal or notebook** that you can use throughout the entire season of Advent. Each day we will provide you with a passage of scripture from the readings for that day and a few reflection questions – we encourage you to take 10 minutes writing your thoughts and responses in your journal, and to conclude with a written prayer. We pray that by doing this, your mind and heart will be better prepared to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25th.

Daily Reflections for the 3rd Week of Advent

SUNDAY (12/13)

“May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

- How committed am I to growing in holiness?
- What steps can I take right now to follow Jesus more faithfully?

MONDAY (12/14)

“Teach me your ways, O Lord” (Psalm 25).

- What influence does the Gospel have on my opinions, judgements, decisions, and actions?
- What am I doing to learn how to think and act according to the way of the Lord? What else might God be calling me to right now?

TUESDAY (12/15)

“For then I will change and purify the lips of the peoples, that they all may call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one accord” (Zephaniah 3:9).

- Where is my life in need of purification? What things in my life stand in the way of serving God wholeheartedly?
- How willing am I to let God transform my heart and mind so that I can live more like Jesus?

WEDNESDAY (12/16)

“Let justice descend, O heavens, like dew from above, like gentle rain let the skies drop it down. Let the earth open and salvation bud forth; let justice also spring up (Isaiah 45:8).

- Where do I see brokenness and injustice in the world?
- How can I shine the light of faith, hope, and love into the darkness?

THURSDAY (12/17)

“Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever (Psalm 72).

- How does my life participate in God’s plan of salvation and restoration in the world?
- How does God want to use me as an instrument of peace in the world (in my family, in my workplace, in my community, etc.)?

FRIDAY (12/18)

“The angel said to Joseph... ‘Mary will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means God is with us (Matthew 1:21-23).

- Jesus is God himself who came to dwell with his people, demonstrating once and for all God’s desire to be truly with us... what is your reaction to this amazing love of God?
- As you prepare to celebrate Christmas, how can you share the joy of the Gospel with others this holiday season?

SATURDAY (12/19)

Speaking of John the Baptist, the Angel said, “He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah... to prepare a people fit for the Lord” (Luke 1:17).

- God used John the Baptist to help prepare people’s heart to encounter the coming Messiah... how willing are you to let God use you to do the same for others?
- What do you think would attract people to the faith and help turn their hearts to the Lord?