



**Advent Daily.**



## *Dear Sanctuary Church,*

Welcome to Advent. This season reminds us to be both mindful of the past, and expectant toward the future. It draws us back two millennia to the birth of Christ, and points us toward the second coming of Jesus when all things will be under God's reign. No matter which direction you prioritize, Advent calls us to delayed gratification, a season of holy longing as we anticipate something/one better. So may we learn to wait on the Lord, with joyous expectation.

For the season of Advent we want to invite you to take part in three formative spiritual practices as we wait together for the coming of Jesus. As we scatter during the week from Sunday worship, let us join each other in Spirit throughout the week, united in these ancient practices:

- The reading of Scripture (via Daily Office)
- Journaling what God is revealing
- Prayer with the Wider Church through the themes of Advent

May we unite as one in single-minded pursuit of the God who — as Advent reveals — pursues us.

# INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the Sanctuary 2023 Advent Devotional. For each day of this season there is content for us to engage together as a church community. Advent begins on Sunday, December 3, and runs through to Christmas Day on December 25. You will also notice a theme for each of the four weeks of Advent. Week 1 is Hope, Week 2 is Peace, Week 3 is Love, and Week 4 (short this year) is Joy. Here is a quick overview:

## *Scripture*

First, each day includes four scripture readings taken from the Daily Office lectionary. Read through these at the beginning of your devotional time. Every day there will be a Psalm, a reading from the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Gospels.

## *Question*

Second, each day includes a question for you to reflect on related to the theme for the week (Hope, Peace, Love, Joy). Take some time to meditate on this question, and then write your response in the blank space below each question or a personal journal.

## *Prayer*

Finally, each day includes a notable prayer written by a host of historical figures, Saints, leaders, reformers, and the traditional prayers of the Church. Once you have completed the readings, and written a response to the question, pray this prayer to conclude your devotional time.



WEEK ONE

*Hope*

# SUNDAY, DEC 3

## *Scripture*

Psalm 146

Amos 1:1-5, 1:13—2:8

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Luke 21:5-19

## *Question*

How would you describe the season of life in which you are now? What are its major opportunities and challenges?

## *Prayer*

Govern everything by your wisdom O Lord so that my soul may always be serving you in the way you will and not as I choose. Let me die to myself so that I may serve you; let me live to you who are life itself. Amen.

— St. Teresa Of Avila

# MONDAY, DEC 4

## *Scripture*

Psalm 1

Amos 2:6-16

2 Peter 1:1-11

Matthew 21:1-11

## *Question*

In which area of your life is your heart often led astray from God's purposes? Why?

## *Prayer*

O teach us to despise all vanities, to fight the battles of the Lord manfully against the flesh, the world, and the devil, to spend our time religiously and usefully, to speak gracious words, to walk always in your presence, to preserve our souls and bodies in holiness fit for the habitation of the Holy Spirit of God.

— John Cosin

# TUESDAY, DEC 5

## *Scripture*

Psalm 5

Amos 3:1-11

2 Peter 1:12-21

Matthew 21:12-22

## *Question*

Advent teaches us the discipline of waiting. How has God enlarged you through the practice of waiting?

## *Prayer*

Almighty God our heavenly Father who from your tender love towards us sinners has given us your Son that believing in him we may have everlasting life; grant us your Holy Spirit that we may continue steadfast in this faith to the end and may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

— John Calvin

# WEDNESDAY, DEC 6

## *Scripture*

Psalm 119:1-24

Amos 3:12—4:5

2 Peter 3:1-10

Matthew 21:23-32

## *Question*

What makes it difficult for you to trust God? Why?

## *Prayer*

Lord God Almighty, shaper and ruler of all creatures, we pray that by your great mercy and by the token of the holy cross you will guide us to your will. Make our minds steadfast, strengthen us against temptation, and keep us from all unrighteousness. Shield us against our enemies, seen and unseen. Teach us to inwardly love you before all things with a clean mind and a clean body. For you are our Maker and Redeemer, our help and comfort, our trust and hope, for ever.

— King Alfred the Great



# THURSDAY, DEC 7

## *Scripture*

Psalm 18:1-20

Amos 4:6-13

2 Peter 3:11-18

Matthew 21:33-46

## *Question*

What do you hope for the most?

## *Prayer*

O God, our Father, we are exceedingly frail, and indisposed to every virtuous and noble undertaking; Strengthen our weakness, we beseech you, that we may be valiant in this spiritual war; help us against our own negligence and cowardice, and defend us from the treachery of our unfaithful hearts; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

— St. Augustine

# FRIDAY, DEC 8

## *Scripture*

Psalm 16

Amos 5:1-17

Jude 1-16

Matthew 22:1-14

## *Question*

God's timing is perfect. What are you most impatient for?

## *Prayer*

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.

— St. Ignatius

# SATURDAY, DEC 9

## *Scripture*

Psalm 20

Amos 5:18-27

Jude 17-25

Matthew 22:15-22

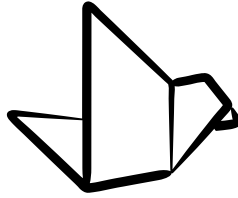
## *Question*

Like Israel, we can be guilty of placing our hopes in various securities like wealth, status, and appearance. What securities do you chase after?

## *Prayer*

O Lord, to be turned from you is to fall, to be turned to you is to rise, and to stand in you is to abide forever. Grant us in all our duties your help, in all our perplexities your guidance, in all our dangers your protection, and in all our sorrows your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

— St. Thomas Aquinas



WEEK TWO

*Peace*

# SUNDAY, DEC 10

## *Scripture*

Psalm 148

Amos 6:1-14

2 Thessalonians 1:5-12

Luke 1:57-68

## *Question*

What is the greatest threat to peace in your life?

## *Prayer*

O God, by thy mercy strengthen us who lie exposed to the rough storms of trouble and temptations. Help us against our own negligence and cowardice, and defend us from the treachery of our unfaithful hearts. Succour us, we beseech thee, and bring us to thy safe haven of peace and felicity.

— St. Augustine

# MONDAY, DEC 11

## *Scripture*

Psalms 25

Amos 7:1-9

Revelation 1:1-8

Matthew 22:23-33

## *Question*

What do you do to find peace in the midst of the noise and compulsions of our city and region?

## *Prayer*

O Lord my God; Teach my heart this day where and how to see you; Where and how to find you. You have made me and remade me; And you have bestowed on me all the good things I possess; And still I do not know you. I have not yet done that for which I was made. Teach me to seek you; For I cannot seek you unless you teach me; Or find you unless you show yourself to me; Let me seek you in my desire; Let me desire you in my seeking; Let me find you by loving you; Let me love you when I find you.

— St. Anselm

# TUESDAY, DEC 12

## *Scripture*

Psalms 26

Amos 7:10-17

Revelation 1:9-16

Matthew 22:34-46

## *Question*

Spend 15 minutes in silence, surrendering yourself totally and unconditionally to the Lord, so that His Word can take root in your heart. Journal about how God spoke to you during this time.

## *Prayer*

Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know Thee, And desire nothing save only Thee. Let me hate myself and love Thee. Let me do everything for the sake of Thee. Let me humble myself and exalt Thee. Let me think nothing except Thee. Let me die to myself and live in Thee. Let me accept whatever happens as from Thee. Let me banish self and follow Thee, and ever desire to follow Thee.

— St. Augustine

# WEDNESDAY, DEC 13

## *Scripture*

Psalms 38

Amos 8:1-14

Revelation 1:17-2:7

Matthew 23:1-12

## *Question*

Are your words and actions in agreement, or is there disharmony in your life? Are you the same person on Sunday afternoon as you are on Monday morning, or Saturday night?

## *Prayer*

O Lord, we humbly beseech you to give us grace not only to be hearers of the Word, but also doers of the Word; not only to love, but also to live your gospel; not only to profess, but also to practice your blessed commandments, for the honour of your holy name.

— Thomas Becon



# THURSDAY, DEC 14

## *Scripture*

Psalms 37:1-18

Amos 9:1-10

Revelation 2:8-17

Matthew 23:13-26

## *Question*

God calls us to intercede and pray for our leaders and earthly authorities. Which leaders do you believe God is calling you to pray for?

## *Prayer*

Almighty God, the Father of all humanity, turn, we pray, the hearts of all peoples and their rulers, that by the power of your Holy Spirit peace may be established, among the nations on the foundation of justice, righteousness and truth; through him who was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

— William Temple

# FRIDAY, DEC 15

## *Scripture*

Psalm 31

Haggai 1:1-15

Revelation 2:18-29

Matthew 23:27-39

## *Question*

God commands us to “fear not.” What fears about your future can you surrender to the Lord today?

## *Prayer*

Fortify me with the grace of Your Holy Spirit and give Your peace to my soul that I may be free from all needless anxiety, solicitude and worry. Help me to desire always that which is pleasing and acceptable to You so that Your will may be my will.

— St. Francis Xavier Cabrini

# SATURDAY, DEC 16

## *Scripture*

Psalm 30

Haggai 2:1-9

Revelation 3:1-6

Matthew 24:1-14

## *Question*

Are you a good listener? Do you take time to listen carefully to others and to the voice of God?

## *Prayer*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

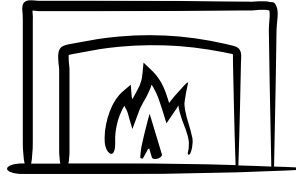
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.

— St. Francis of Assisi



WEEK THREE

*Love*

# SUNDAY, DEC 17

## *Scripture*

Psalm 50

Zechariah 4:1-14

Revelation 4:9-5:5

Matthew 25:1-13

## *Question*

Do you make comparisons with others on a spiritual level?

Why or why not?

## *Prayer*

See, O merciful God, what return I, your thankless servant, have made for the innumerable favors and the wonderful love you have shown me! What wrongs I have done, what good left undone! Wash away, I beg you, these faults and stains with your precious blood, most kind Redeemer, and make up for my poverty by applying your merits. Give me the protection I need to amend my life. I give and surrender myself wholly to you, and offer you all I possess, with the prayer that you bestow your grace on me, so that I may be able to devote and employ all the thinking power of my mind and the strength of my body in your holy service, who are God blessed for ever and ever. Amen.

— St. Peter Canisius

# MONDAY, DEC 18

## *Scripture*

Psalm 40

Zechariah 7:8-8:8

Revelation 5:6-14

Matthew 25:14-30

## *Question*

Are your eyes open to the burdens borne by others? In what ways can you share in God's restorative work in our Sanctuary community?

## *Prayer*

Merciful and most loving God, by whose will and bountiful gift Jesus Christ our Lord, humbled himself that he might exalt humankind; and became flesh that he might restore in us the most celestial image; and was born of the Virgin that he might uplift the lowly; grant us the inheritance of the meek, perfect in us your likeness, and bring us at last to rejoice in beholding your beauty, and with all your saints to give glory to your grace, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

— Gallican Sacramentary

# TUESDAY, DEC 19

## *Scripture*

Psalms 55

Zechariah 8:9-17

Revelation 6:1-17

Matthew 25:31-46

## *Question*

For what are you most thankful to God?

## *Prayer*

O Lord, renew our spirits and draw our hearts to yourself, that our work may not be to us a burden but a delight. Let us not serve you with the spirit of bondage like slaves, but with freedom and gladness, delighting in you and rejoicing in your work, for Jesus Christ's sake.

— Benjamin Jenks

# WEDNESDAY, DEC 20

## *Scripture*

Psalms 24

Genesis 3:8-15

Revelation 12:1-10

John 3:16-21

## *Question*

Do you feel a part of the Sanctuary community? Why or why not? What strength or asset could you offer to our church community?

## *Prayer*

You are holy, Lord, the only God, and your deeds are wonderful. You are strong. You are great. You are the most high. You are almighty. You, holy Father are the King of heaven and earth. You are three in one, Lord God, all Good. You are Good, all Good, supreme Good, Lord God living and true. You are love. You are wisdom. You are humility. You are endurance. You are rest. You are peace. You are joy and gladness. You are justice and moderation. You are all our riches, and you suffice for us. You are beauty. You are gentleness. You are our protector. You are our guardian and defender. You are our coverage. You are our haven and our hope. You are our faith, our great consolation. You are our eternal life, great and wonderful Lord, God almighty, merciful Savior.

— St. Francis of Assisi



# THURSDAY, DEC 21

## *Scripture*

Psalm 61

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Titus 1:1-16

Luke 1:1-25

## *Question*

We often “love” God when it’s convenient or when we need him, but what would it look like to love Him in your current circumstance?

## *Prayer*

Dear Jesus, help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly, that our lives may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through us, and be so in us, that every person we should come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us, but only Jesus. Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as you shine; so to shine as to be a light to others; the light, Jesus, will be all from you. None of it will be ours. It will be you shining on others through us. Let us thus praise you in the way you love best, by shining on those around us. Let us preach you without preaching; not by words, but by our example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do, the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear for you. Amen.

— Mother Teresa

# FRIDAY, DEC 22

## *Scripture*

Psalm 66

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Titus 2:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

## *Question*

Who are you trying to change? What would it look like to try to love them instead?

## *Prayer*

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth; send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts, that most excellent gift of love, the very bond of peace and all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee; grant us this for thy Son Jesus Christ's sake.

– Thomas Cranmer

# SATURDAY, DEC 23

## *Scripture*

Psalms 72

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Titus 2:11-3:8

Luke 1:39-56

## *Question*

In what tangible way has God demonstrated his love for you?

## *Prayer*

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly engraved, that no prosperity, no adversity shall ever move me from your love. Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, a very present help in trouble and a guide to heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life.

— Thomas A Kempis



WEEK FOUR

*Joy*

# SUNDAY, DEC 24

## *Scripture*

Psalms 45

Isaiah 9:1-7

Galatians 3:23-47

Matthew 1:18-25

## *Question*

What is the role of beholding God in your spiritual life? How and when will you take time this Christmas season to behold and delight in the Word made Flesh?

## *Prayer*

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

# MONDAY, DEC 25

## *Scripture*

Psalm 2

Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4

1 John 4:7-16

John 3:31-36

## *Question*

How will you rejoice today and for the remainder of Christmastide in the birth of our Savior?

## *Prayer*

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Acknowledgement: This devotional is adapted from the former Trinity  
Grace Church of Chelsea in NYC. We are grateful to the labors of our  
brothers and sisters in assembling these readings, questions, and prayers*

