



Advent Devotions 2024
First Week of Advent

Read

Advent Credo

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—
This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful councilor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the life of the world.

From *Testimony: The Word Made Flesh*, by Daniel Berrigan, S.J. Orbis Books, 2004.

Listen

Javier Busto: O magnum mysterium - Batavia Madrigal Singers, Dir. Avip Priatna

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kT5t3_DH7Ms

O magnum mysterium
et admirabilis sacramentum
ut animalia viderunt
Dominum natum
jacentem in praesepe.
Beata virgo
cujus viscera meruerunt
portare Dominum Christum.

What a great mystery
and wondrous sacrament,
that the animals should behold
the new-born Lord
lying in a manger.
Blessed Virgin,
whose womb was worthy
to bear the Lord Christ.

Reflect

What does my heart hope for this Advent season?

Pray

Glorious God, open my heart to your light and hope this season, bring calm to the busy and anxious days so that I may show hope and light in my life – to myself and to those around me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.





Advent Devotions 2024
Second Week of Advent

Read

Pilgrimage to Peace

Our pilgrimage
in life,
as in faith,
is not a straight line
from Point A to Point B
Our pilgrimage
in life
is an ever deepening
ever broadening spiral
deeper into God
deeper into Christ
broadening out into
more and more
of the world.

In the unlimited center
of the spiral
is Christ
the one who wishes us peace
the one who is peace.
Our pilgrimage in life
is a spiral
around and into the Christ
– one with God –
who walks with us
listens to us
changes us
sets our hearts burning
breaks bread with us
and grants us
peace.

Susan Palo Cherwien, *From Glory Into Glory*, 2009, MorningStar Music Publishers, pg. 64



Advent Devotions 2024 *Second Week of Advent*

Listen

Hope Darst: Peace Be Still

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsIpGiz3SfQ>

Reflect

What part of my journey this Advent requires leaning into the peace which is of Christ? How can I find peace when my journey or pilgrimage encounters ups and downs, twists and turns?

Pray

Comforting God, remind us that you are the peace in the storm. We are grateful that when our journey takes us down an unknown spiral, we only need to breathe, be still, and trust the light of Christ, who walks beside us always. Amen





Advent Devotions 2024
Third Week of Advent

Read

For Joy

You can prepare,
but still
it will come to you
by surprise,

Crossing through your doorway,
calling your name in greeting,
turning like a child
who quickens suddenly
within you.

It will astonish you
how wide your heart will open in welcome

For the joy that finds you
so ready
and still so
unprepared.

Jan Richardson *Circle of Grace*, 2015. Wanton Gospeller Press, pg. 58.



Advent Devotions 2024
Third Week of Advent

Listen

Lindsey Stirling: Angles We Have Heard On High

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFsDAoCHYiQ>

Reflect

The joy of the season surrounds us, sometimes overwhelming us, sometimes bringing smiles, sometimes bringing remembrances, sometimes catching us unaware. How might I tune myself to be ready to receive the joy that comes by surprise, the joy that overwhelms me as I wait for the coming of Jesus?

Pray

Most loving and gracious God, in this season, open my heart to the deep joy of my faith and the deep joy of the expectation of Christmas. May my heart be open and amazed at the unexpected joy I find in your world. Amen





Advent Devotions 2024
Fourth Week of Advent

Read

The Lesson of the Falling Leaves

the leaves believe
such letting go is love
such love is faith
such faith is grace
such grace is god
i agree with the leaves

+ Lucille Clifton

<https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/2021/9/21/the-lesson-of-the-falling-leaves-by-lucille-clifton>

Reflect

In the spirit of love, of what do I need to let go this season?



Advent Devotions 2024
Fourth Week of Advent

Read

Shoulders

A man crosses the street in rain,
stepping gently, looking two times north and south,
because his son is asleep on his shoulder.

No car must splash him.
No car drive too near to his shadow.

This man carries the world's most sensitive cargo
but he's not marked.
Nowhere does his jacket say FRAGILE,
HANDLE WITH CARE.

His ear fills up with breathing.
He hears the hum of a boy's dream
deep inside him.

We're not going to be able
to live in this world
if we're not willing to do what he's doing
with one another.

The road will only be wide.
The rain will never stop falling.

Naomi Shihab Nye (b. 1952)

<https://poets.org/poem/shoulders>

Reflect

In these days, what might I be willing to do for another, to guard the dreams hidden within us?



Advent Devotions 2024
Fourth Week of Advent

Listen

Ola Gjelio: Winter Songs, Dawn

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_F76RY7BGU

Pray

Faithful God, we thank you for your eternal love. Help us to unclench our fearful hearts to do your work of love in the world. May we love and serve our neighbors as Jesus our Savior showed us. Amen.





Christmas Devotions 2024

Christmas Day

Read

Gaudete

Because Christmas is almost here
Because dancing fits so well with music
Because inside baby clothes are
miracles.
Gaudete

Because some people love you
Because of chocolate
Because pain does not last forever
Because Santa Claus is coming.
Gaudete

Because of laughter
Because there really are angels
Because your fingers fit your hands
Because forgiveness is yours for the
asking
Because of children
Because of parents.
Gaudete

Because the blind see.
And the lame walk.
Gaudete

Because lepers are clean
And the deaf hear.
Gaudete

Because the dead will live again
And there is good news for the poor.
Gaudete

Because of Christmas
Because of Jesus
You rejoice.

Brad Reynolds

<https://www.journeywithjesus.net/poemsandprayers/678-brad-reynolds-gaudete>

Listen

Ola Gjeilo, Serenity (O Magnum Mysterium)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al6CMyLmOvU>

Reflect

Gaudete – Rejoice.

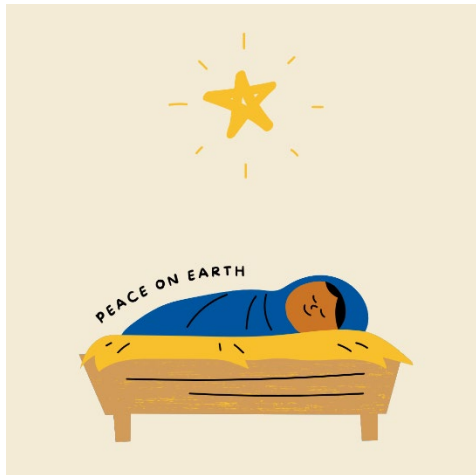
The light of the world, Gaudete – Rejoice.

Hope, Joy, Peace and Love collide on this holy night, Gaudete – Rejoice.

Rejoice in your heart – what is in your heart this Christmas that shouts, Gaudete – Rejoice.

Pray

Loving and gracious God, my whole being shouts *Gaudete* at the birth of Jesus Christ. Even in darkness, your son is the light of the world, a reason for hope and a beacon of peace - *Gaudete*. In the coming days and weeks, may my life shine light to my corner of the world and with your care, may I do my part to live as your son lived in whose name I pray. Amen





Christmas Devotions 2024

Epiphany

Read

Blessing of the Magi

There is no reversing
this road.
The path that bore you here
goes in one direction only,
every step drawing you
down a way
by which you will not
return.

You thought arrival
was everything,
that your entire journey
ended with kneeling
in the place
you had spent all
to find.

When you laid down
your gift,
release came with such ease,
your treasure tumbling
from your hands
in awe and
benediction.

Now the knowledge
of your leaving
comes like a stone laid
over your heart,
the familiar path closed
and not even the solace
of a star
to guide your way.

You will set out in fear.
You will set out in dream.

But you will set out.

by that other road
that lies in shadow
and in dark.

We cannot show you
what route will
take you home;
that way is yours
and will be found
in the walking.

Bet we tell you,
you will wonder
at how the light you thought
you had left behind
goes with you,
spilling from
your empty hands,
shimmering beneath
your homeward feet,
illuminating the road
with every step
you take.

Listen

The Quiet Night (Thomas Keesecker)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQrk0iPOkfM>

Reflect

This journey I am on, I know not where it will take me. Yet I continue to walk in the light. What do I think and feel about the unknown journey ahead? Trusting in the light, how can I attune my heart to the guiding illumination of Jesus?

Pray

Loving God and precious Jesus, I know your light and illumination is always with me – even when I don't see it. In every way, let my light shine, reflecting your word and works in this world. Amen

Listen

You Shine (Patricia Mock, arr. Brian Būda)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXQJxqUoG-I>

