



A Twenty-Five Day Advent
Devotional [Dec 1 - 25]

Following the Themes of **Waiting**,
Peacemaking, **Rejoicing**, and
Beholding

Pennington AG Church
Advent 2025

ADVENT 2025 DAILY DEVOTIONAL (Dec 1-25)

How to Use This Devotional

This devotional is designed to guide you from December 1 to December 25 as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Each day includes a short Scripture reading, a reflection, and a prayer. Move through it slowly. Let the Scriptures shape your attention, soften your heart, and draw you closer to Christ.

A few suggestions:

- ***Create a consistent time each day to read and pray.***
- ***Read the Scripture first before the reflection.***
- ***Sit with one phrase or idea that stands out.***
- ***Close with the prayer or add your own.***
- ***Share what God is showing you with a friend or family member.***

As you journey through Waiting, Peacemaking, Rejoicing, and Beholding, may the Spirit awaken fresh hope, deep peace, surprising joy, and renewed love within you.

WEEK 1 - WAITING (Dec 1-6)

December 1 - The Foundation of the Spiritual Life

Scripture: *Luke 1:5-15*

Excerpt (NLT):

“Do not be afraid, Zechariah. God has heard your prayer.” (v. 13)

Reflection:

Advent begins where the spiritual life always begins, with God’s voice breaking into ordinary life. Zechariah and Elizabeth had prayed for years, and heaven seemed silent. Yet God was listening the entire time. Advent reminds us that waiting is never wasted. In hidden places, God is already at work preparing answers we cannot yet see. The foundation of spiritual life is not our effort but God’s initiative and our willingness to receive. Today, as you step into Advent, let your first act be simple openness: “Lord, I am listening.” God meets us not when we have everything figured out, but when we make space to hear Him speak.

Prayer:

“Lord, open my ears and my heart. Begin something new in me as I wait for You.”

December 2 - God Works in the Dark

Scripture: *Psalms 27:7-14*

Excerpt (NLT):

“Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous.” (v. 14)

Reflection:

Waiting is rarely comfortable. David cries out in confusion, longing for God to act. Yet in the dark, David also learns to trust. Advent teaches us that God often does His deepest work in unseen places - in silence, in questions, in longing. God is forming courage, patience, and faith in us as we wait. Today, name one area of life that feels dark or unresolved. Bring it honestly before God. Even when you cannot see Him working, He is near.

Prayer:

“God, strengthen me in the places where I cannot yet see Your light. Help me trust You.”

December 3 - Refusing to Act Before God Acts

Scripture: *Psalms 39:4–7*

Excerpt (NLT):

“And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in You.” (v. 7)

Reflection:

Much of our anxiety comes from trying to solve problems God has asked us to surrender. David begins this psalm wrestling with impatience, wanting to rush ahead - as we often do. But he ends in humility, recognizing that hope rests not in what he can manage but in God's timing. Advent teaches holy restraint. Today, pause before you act. Ask, “Lord, is this Your timing or mine?” Learning to wait with God frees us from fear and brings our lives back under His leadership.

Prayer:

“Jesus, slow my steps. Help me trust Your timing more than my own urgency.”

December 4 - Wait Training

Scripture: *Romans 5:1–5*

Excerpt (NLT):

“Endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope.” (v. 4)

Reflection:

Waiting is not passive - it forms us. Paul teaches that endurance deepens character and anchors hope. The pressures we face are not barriers to spiritual life; they are the training ground. Advent helps us see waiting not as punishment but as preparation. Today, reflect on a hardship you've endured this year. How has God shaped your character through it? Hope grows when we recognize the ways God has strengthened us through trials.

Prayer:

“Spirit, shape my character through waiting. Train my heart to hope in You.”

December 5 - Waiting for the Child

Scripture: *Isaiah 9:6–7*

Excerpt (NLT):

“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.” (v. 6)

Reflection:

While God’s people longed for rescue, the answer came not as a warrior or king but as a child. God’s ways disrupt our expectations. Advent invites us to wait not for the solutions we imagine but for the Savior God chooses to send. The coming of Christ reminds us that God’s salvation often begins small, quiet, and easily overlooked. Today, ask God to help you recognize His surprising work - the ways He is beginning redemption in seed form.

Prayer:

“Lord, give me eyes to see Your salvation even in small beginnings.”

December 6 - The Foolishness of Waiting

Scripture: *Luke 2:29–32, 36–37*

Excerpt (NLT):

“She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God.” (v. 37)

Reflection:

Simeon and Anna waited for decades for God’s promise to be fulfilled. To the world, their persistence may have looked foolish - too slow, too hopeful, too unrealistic. Yet they were the first to recognize the Messiah when He arrived. Advent calls us to the same kind of faithful waiting. Some promises take time. Some prayers are answered slowly. But those who keep watch with God are never disappointed. Today, recommit one long-term prayer or longing into God’s hands.

Prayer:

“Lord, help me wait faithfully, even when Your timing feels foolish to the world.”

WEEK 2 - PEACEMAKING (Dec 7–13)

December 7 - Jesus or Herod

Scripture: *Psalms 46:1–10*

Excerpt (NLT):

“Be still, and know that I am God!” (v. 10)

Reflection:

Herod clung to power through fear and control. Jesus comes bringing peace through surrender and trust. Our hearts choose between these postures daily. Psalm 46 reminds us that God is our refuge - not our plans, defenses, or anxieties. Peace begins by becoming still before God, surrendering our grip, and trusting His strength. Today, take a moment of stillness. Let go of what you have tried to control, and invite God to be your refuge.

Prayer:

“Jesus, quiet my fears and teach me to rest in Your peace.”

December 8 - Shaloming the World

Scripture: *Luke 2:8–14*

Excerpt (NLT):

“Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” (v. 14)

Reflection:

The angels proclaim “shalom” - far more than the absence of conflict. Shalom means wholeness, restoration, everything made right. Jesus came to bring this kind of peace into our world and our hearts. Advent invites us to join God’s work of peace wherever bitterness, fear, or division exist. Today, ask God to reveal one relationship or place where He is inviting you to bring peace.

Prayer:

“Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Heal what is broken through me.”

December 9 - Disrupting False Peace

Scripture: *Matthew 5:3–12*

Excerpt (NLT):

“Blessed are those who work for peace.” (v. 9)

Reflection:

True peace is not pretending everything is fine. Jesus confronts false peace - the quiet that hides injustice or avoids honesty. Peacemakers are not peacekeepers; they step into difficult spaces with courage and compassion. Advent teaches us that peace sometimes requires disruption. Today, ask God to show you where He is calling you to speak truth in love or to pursue reconciliation that requires courage.

Prayer:

“God, give me courage to pursue Your peace, even when it is uncomfortable.”

December 10 - Peace Beyond Understanding

Scripture: *Matthew 25:31–45*

Excerpt (NLT):

“I was hungry, and you fed me... I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home.” (v. 35)

Reflection:

Jesus teaches that peace is not abstract - it is lived out in compassion. We meet Christ Himself in the hungry, the stranger, the overlooked. Advent peace moves us outward, beyond our comfort, toward those in need. Today, ask God to show you who in your life needs compassion, attention, or presence. Peace grows as we respond to the needs of others with Christlike love.

Prayer:

“Jesus, help me see You in the people around me and respond with compassion.”

December 11 - Glory to God, Peace to Us

Scripture: *Luke 2:13–15; Isaiah 9:2–7*

Excerpt (NLT):

“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.” (Isaiah 9:2)

Reflection:

The birth of Jesus brings glory to God and peace to humanity. Isaiah promises that God’s light shines in our deepest darkness, bringing hope to weary people. Advent helps us look for God’s light breaking into hard places - in our homes, relationships, and world. Today, name one area of darkness you see around you and pray for God’s peace to break in.

Prayer:

“Lord, let Your light shine where there is darkness. Bring peace to our world and to my heart.”

December 12 - Receiving Peace

Scripture: *Matthew 6:25–32*

Excerpt (NLT):

“Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.” (v. 32)

Reflection:

Peace often slips away because we try to carry what only God can hold. Jesus invites us to release worry by trusting our Father’s care. Advent calls us to slow down, breathe deeply, and receive the peace God freely gives. Today, identify one worry you can surrender to God. Say aloud: “Father, You know what I need. I trust You.”

Prayer:

“Father, take my worry and fill me with Your peace.”

December 13 - Ambassadors of Peace (*NEW*)

Scripture: *2 Corinthians 5:18–20*

Excerpt (NLT):

“So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us.” (v. 20)

Reflection:

God not only brings peace to us - He brings peace **through** us. Paul says we are ambassadors of reconciliation, carrying Christ’s message into the world. Advent peace multiplies as we forgive, listen, bless, and move toward others with grace. Today, ask God to make you His ambassador: someone who represents Jesus’ heart in your conversations, decisions, and relationships.

Prayer:

“Jesus, use my life to bring Your peace wherever I go.”

WEEK 3 - REJOICING (Dec 14–20)

December 14 - Increasing Your Joy

Scripture: *Psalm 126*

Excerpt (NLT):

“We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy.” (v. 2)

Reflection:

Joy is a gift, but it also grows through remembrance. Psalm 126 teaches us to recall God’s past faithfulness - to remember when He restored, healed, or rescued us. Advent joy increases when we rehearse God’s goodness. Today, remember one way God has been faithful to you this year. Let gratitude stir joy in your heart.

Prayer:

“God, remind me of Your goodness and fill me with joy.”

December 15 - Complete Joy

Scripture: *John 15:9–12*

Excerpt (NLT):

“I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy.” (v. 11)

Reflection:

Jesus wants His joy to live in us - not a fleeting feeling, but a deep, settled gladness rooted in His love. Joy grows as we remain close to Him, living in His love and obeying His ways. Today, take a few moments to sit in stillness and let Jesus speak His love over you.

Prayer:

“Jesus, let Your joy take root in me. Keep me close to Your heart.”

December 16 - Joy Through Singing

Scripture: *John 16:16–24*

Excerpt (NLT):

“You will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.” (v. 22)

Reflection:

Jesus promises a joy that cannot be stolen - a joy that survives sorrow because it is anchored in resurrection. One of the ways we enter this joy is through worship. Singing shifts our focus, opens our hearts, and lifts our eyes to God's goodness. Today, sing a favorite worship song. Let your voice become a pathway into joy.

Prayer:

"God, fill my heart with the joy that comes from Your presence."

December 17 - Following Children into Joy

Scripture: *Philippians 4:4–7*

Excerpt (NLT):

"Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again - rejoice!" (v. 4)

Reflection:

Children rejoice easily - their joy is unfiltered, honest, and spontaneous. Scripture invites us to return to that kind of joy. Paul's command is not to feel joyful but to choose joy by turning our minds to Christ through prayer. Joy grows as we bring anxieties to God and trust Him with them. Today, bring one worry to God and ask Him to replace it with His peace and joy.

Prayer:

"Lord, teach me to rejoice like a child. Replace my worry with Your peace."

December 18 - Joy and Sorrow Held Together

Scripture: *Habakkuk 3:16–18*

Excerpt (NLT):

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord!" (v. 18)

Reflection:

Joy is not denial of sorrow. Habakkuk models joy in hardship - a joy rooted not in circumstances but in God Himself. Advent joy is resilient, honest, and fiercely hopeful. Today, acknowledge one sorrow you are carrying. Ask God to hold it with you and give you joy even in the midst of it.

Prayer:

"God, meet me in my sorrow and fill me with hope-filled joy."

December 19 - Jesus, Bringer of Joy

Scripture: *John 17:6–13*

Excerpt (NLT):

“I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy.”
(v. 13)

Reflection:

Jesus brings joy by revealing the Father’s heart - a heart full of love, compassion, and grace. Joy grows as we see God more clearly. Today, ask Jesus to reveal the Father’s love to you in a fresh way. Let the knowledge of His kindness bring joy to your soul.

Prayer:

“Father, let Your love fill me with joy.”

December 20 - The Joy of the Lord Is Your Strength (NEW)

Scripture: *Nehemiah 8:10*

Excerpt (NLT):

“Don’t be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!” (v. 10)

Reflection:

Nehemiah reminds a weary people that joy is not something they must produce - it is something God gives. The joy of the Lord becomes strength, lifting discouraged hearts and renewing weary souls. Advent joy anchors us when life feels heavy. Today, receive God’s joy as a gift, trusting that His gladness strengthens you for whatever lies ahead.

Prayer:

“God, let Your joy be my strength today.”

WEEK 4 - BEHOLDING (Dec 21–25)

December 21 - Behold God

Scripture: *John 1:29–34*

Excerpt (NLT):

“Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (v. 29)

Reflection:

John’s call is simple: “Look!” Advent asks us to pause and behold Jesus - the One who takes away sin and brings life. Spiritual transformation begins with attention. Today, slow down and look for Jesus: in Scripture, in silence, in the beauty around you, and in the people you meet.

Prayer:

“Lord, help me behold You today with fresh wonder.”

December 22 - Saying Yes to God’s Invitations

Scripture: *Luke 1:26–38*

Excerpt (NLT):

“May everything you have said about me come true.” (v. 38)

Reflection:

Mary’s yes changed the world. Advent reminds us that God still speaks and still invites His people into His work. Mary responds with humility, courage, and trust. Today, ask God what He is inviting you to say yes to - an act of service, forgiveness, generosity, or surrender.

Prayer:

“Jesus, give me a willing and courageous heart to say yes to You.”

December 23 - Beholding the God With Us

Scripture: *Matthew 1:18–24*

Excerpt (NLT):

“They will call Him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” (v. 23)

Reflection:

The heart of Christmas is this truth: God has come close. He is not distant or silent - He is with us, in every joy and struggle. Advent invites us to rest in this promise. Today, reflect on where you need to experience God’s presence. Whisper this truth throughout your day: “You are with me.”

Prayer:

“Immanuel, be near to me today. Help me trust Your presence.”

December 24 - Beholding Our Brokenness

Scripture: *Matthew 1:18–21*

Excerpt (NLT):

“He will save His people from their sins.” (v. 21)

Reflection:

Christmas Eve reminds us why Christ came - to save us from our sin, heal our brokenness, and restore us to God. Advent ends with honesty: we need a Savior. The good news is that Jesus meets us right where we are. Today, confess your need for Him and receive His grace with gratitude.

Prayer:

“Jesus, thank You for coming to save us. Heal my heart and make me new.”

December 25 - The King Is Born

Scripture: *Luke 2:8–12*

Excerpt (NLT):

“I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.” (v. 10)

Reflection:

The long wait is over. Joy has come. Peace has arrived. Love has taken on flesh. On this holy day, we join the angels, shepherds, and all of creation in celebrating the birth of our Savior. Jesus is the good news that brings great joy to all people. Today, celebrate with wonder - the King is born!

Prayer:

“Jesus, thank You for coming to us. Fill this day with Your joy, peace, hope, and love.”