



WAITING

Advent

comes from the Latin word *adventus*; it means coming. Advent is

about three comings – the birth of Jesus, the incarnation, and the second coming. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year¹ and is the time when the Church (universal) reenters the story of the coming of King Jesus our Messiah. Joan Chittister writes:

*“The liturgical year does not begin at the heart of the Christian enterprise. It does not immediately plunge us into the chaos of the crucifixion or the giddy confusion of the resurrection. Instead, the year opens with Advent, the season which teaches us to wait for what is beyond the obvious. It trains us to see what is behind the apparent. Advent makes us look for God in all those places we have until now ignored.”*²

It is about learning to have eyes that are able to see beauty, hope, and joy where there is none. Our prayer during this season is “God as we wait with anticipation open our eyes so that we may see you more clearly.”

Advent consists of the four weeks before Christmas and each week has a theme. The first week is hope, week two is peace, week three is joy, and week four is love.

And so as a community this year we want to enter into this season learning to wait with joy in the midst of a society of instant, now and fast food. This devotional is a tool for us to build our waiting muscles. We hope you grow closer to Jesus and that HE reveals Himself to you in a more real way this season.

Blessings,

Ryan

¹The Liturgical year is a cycle that many churches participate in. It reenacts the life of Christ, which begins with Advent and includes Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and common time. Liturgy simply means the work of the people and is a way for the church to read through all the scriptures every three years. In its most pure forms Liturgy is meant to help people engage the story of God together.

²The Liturgical year pg 59

How to use the devotional:

Begin each day by reading the Psalm for the week. The Psalms help us learn how to communicate our full-selves to God. Then read the scripture that is assigned for the day of the week. When you are done reading take 5 to 10 minutes to reflect either by journaling, drawing, sketching, or just thinking. While reflecting, give God space to speak (at the back of this booklet are some questions for reflection). After reflection pray for others, for your family, and then spend time thanking God for who He is and how He is working in you.

Things to consider while using the devotional:

- keep a prayer journal.
- read each day with family or friends.
- ask someone to be a reading partner; then talk about it daily or weekly.
- memorize a verse in the Psalm each week.
- read the passages 3 times a day.
- rewrite a passage in your own words
- make an Advent wreath for your home.
- if you miss a day don't fret, pick it back up the next day.

Celebrating Advent as a Community:

Veritas has been in the subversive habit of celebrating Advent by giving. Americans spend billions of dollars each year on gifts that most people forget about weeks after Christmas. Veritas has been giving to partner organizations that are committed to the work of Gospel locally and globally. Our reason for giving during Advent; God gave lavishly to us, so we give lavishly to others. This year Veritas will be participating in two giving opportunities.

Andrew and Liz Berg:

Andrew and Liz Berg are Campus Workers on the campus of Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA through InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. We have been taking 10% of our offering from October and November and setting it aside to give to their work of discipling College Students. In December/Advent we'll continue to set aside 10% of the offering to bless Andrew and Liz as they serve, bless, and share the gospel with college students at Dickinson College.

Binding Love Scarves:

Binding Love Scarves is a ministry that we have been supporting for a year or so through holding cutting parties where we cut up old clothing so that they can be redeemed into scarves

that are then sold and half the proceeds go to fighting Human Trafficking in Thailand. Binding Love Scarves supports two houses in Thailand: Eden House is a Christian based home, just 30 miles from the Burmese border. Eden House is dedicated to extracting young girls, mostly hilltribe, from extreme "at risk" situations. 'At risk' means these young girls may be sold by a parent or village member into prostitution or slave labour to help support their drug or alcohol addictions. AIDS is taking its toll too, with orphans in each village. Girls in situations like these can't fight for themselves and are offered little chance of hope or escape. Eden House has 33 girls aged 5-20 years, living in 3 homes -each one a sanctuary, a safe place. House of Refuge That's the name, and that is what it really is for 29 girls, aged 6 and up. These girls have been sexually abused, usually within their families and communities. In House of Refuge's 4 homes, surrounded by a caring, loving environment, they are able to receive both physical and emotional healing. With God's help, their shattered lives are healed; they are able to continue with their education or learn a profession. During Advent (November 30-December 21) and the last Sunday of the year (December 28) we will take an additional 10% of the offerings and give them to support the work that Binding Love Scarves is doing.

Please consider spending less this holiday season to give more. If you decide to give this year, please do so at one of our gatherings in December. We will close Advent giving on December 28th, 2014.

The First Week of Advent: November 24-30

I. Waiting and Watching (Hope)

I. Psalm 95

II. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday: Luke 1:67-80
Tuesday: Colossians 1:9-23
Wednesday: Mark 1:1-8
Thursday: Isaiah 43:1-13
Friday: Hebrews 10:11-25
Saturday: Zephaniah 3:14-20
Sunday: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Psalm 25:1-10; Luke 21:25-36

The Second Week of Advent: December 1-7

II. Getting Ready (Peace)

I. Psalm 62

II. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday: Luke 1:5-25
Tuesday: Luke 1:57-80
Wednesday: Mathew 3:1-12
Thursday: Isaiah 62:1-12
Friday: Ezekiel 34:11-16
Saturday: Isaiah 51:1-8
Sunday: Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11; Psalm 126; Luke 3:1-6

The Third Week of Advent: December 8-14

III. Good News (Joy)

I. Psalm 80

II. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday: Mark 13:1-13
Tuesday: Luke 21:25-36
Wednesday: Revelation 1:1-8
Thursday: John 1:14-18
Friday: Luke 12:35-48
Saturday: Acts 1:1-11
Sunday: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-9; Luke 3:7-18

The Fourth Week of Advent: December 15-21

IV: When God comes (Love)

I. Psalm 65

II. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday: James 5:7-18
Tuesday: Mathew 1:18-25
Wednesday: Isaiah 40:1-11
Thursday: Ezekiel 34:17-31
Friday: Isaiah 9:1-7
Saturday: Philippians 4:4-9
Sunday: Micah 5:1-5; Hebrews 10:5-10; Psalm 80:1-7; Luke 1:39-55

Questions for studying the scriptures:

- What is the good news in this passage?
- What does this passage say about who we are?
- What does this passage say about who God is?
- How does this passage call us to a new way of life?
- How does this passage send us?

Questions for reflection:

- I haven't felt I could trust God wholeheartedly since...
- I feel most hopeful when...
- Anxiety causes me to...
- I feel most alone when...
- Jesus wants to set me free in the area of...
- If I loved people the way God wants me to, it would change my life by...
- I am brimming with gratitude this week because...
- I can bring joy into someone's life by...
- This scripture is teaching me...
- I need help in...



The Veritas Community exists to bless the world, grow deeper in their journey with Jesus, and share life together.

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