



# And the Angels Sang

An Advent Devotional

2022

*AND THE ANGELS SANG*

+ an Advent devotional from the sermon series, Kingdom Come

*ADVENT.* A time of waiting. Of breath suspended and hearts preparing room. A remembrance of a coming King, both then and now. History has heralded a day that's dawned glorious and new. It's a reminder to celebrate the arrival of Jesus, who sets all things right, and to wait in expectation for His coming again.

Let us explore the scene: We stand beside a stable, peer into a manger, marvel at the tiny boy stirring in his bed. This little one will grow into the One who takes away the sins of the world! The sky split wide with the wonder of angels, bringing great tidings of good news to shepherds shivering on the night watch.

Glory, this tiny boy wrapped in cloths asleep at His mother's side. The world slept on while the shepherds sought the young family, the mother, father, and child huddled together for warmth by the animals, and the angels sang.

Each week, we follow along the sermon series, Kingdom Come, and expound upon the Scripture introduced to us. These daily reflections guide us through the Bible and explore the week's Advent topic, and allows us space to let the Lord speak into our hearts and glean a nugget of truth to hold to as we go throughout our day.

Throughout this Advent season, try to consider: How does the already-come Jesus and Him coming again impact the way you live your life, and how you interact with others? The Kingdom has come. Rejoice!

WEEK ONE : HOPE

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus  
Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.*

*LISTEN TO : Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
*by Meredith Andrews*

MAIN SCRIPTURE SUNDAY : Isaiah 2:1-5

Hope is what we hang our hearts on, what we hold to when all other options are gone. The people of Israel hoped for Messiah for centuries, waiting and watching, wondering when the promised One would arrive and make all things right. The hope Jesus brings is enough.

*MONDAY:*

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

*READ:*

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

- JOHN 14:1-10

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN.* What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION:* Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.

*God, You have sent Your Son in Your likeness to show us Your love. Jesus is our way, truth, and life, and He is our hope that does not dim. Thank You for sending Jesus to walk this world and show us the way to you, and to give us great hope. In His name, amen.*

*TUESDAY:*

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

*READ :*

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- 1 PETER 1:3-9

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Father God, You have given us new birth into a living hope through Christ. What a beautiful and merciful gift. Thank You that Jesus showed us the way through suffering, so we can take comfort in Him when we go through trials. In Jesus, You fill us with joy and salvation. Thank You. In Jesus' name, amen.*

WEDNESDAY:

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

READ :

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

- ROMANS 4:18-22

*PAUSE, READ AGAIN.* What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION:* Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.

*Even when the odds seem against us, You promise us a hope that doesn't fade, and You make good on Your promises. Thank You that You strengthen my faith and enable me to walk it out through the power and guidance of Your Holy Spirit. Let me live it out today, In Jesus' name, amen.*

THURSDAY:

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

READ:

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

- LUKE 1:26-38

*LINGER. Pause. Read again. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*What faith Mary gave in worship to You! Thank You that while she wrestled with the big questions and the mystery, she still stepped in faith and obedience, trusting in Your good plan. Help me to have a heart like hers, to lean on You through my struggles, and to trust with hope that You are always at work in ways that are best. In Jesus' name, amen.*

*FRIDAY:*

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

*READ :*

For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;  
I will sing the praises of your name."

Again, it says,

"Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."

And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;  
let all the peoples extol him."

And again, Isaiah says,

"The Root of Jesse will spring up,  
one who will arise to rule over the nations;  
in him the Gentiles will hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- ROMANS 15:8-13

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Rejoice. You tell me to rejoice. Rejoice in all things and praise Your name. You are the Lord over all, who raises up the Root of Jesse to save us all. Thank You that You have made a way, and that You are the God of hope. May I overflow with hope in You today. In Jesus' name, amen.*



WEEK TWO : PEACE

*Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from Thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace.  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.*

LISTEN TO : Peace on Earth/Silent Night  
by Ellie Holcomb

MAIN SCRIPTURE SUNDAY : Isaiah 11:1-10

Peace is a presence that stays with us in the midst of shifting circumstances. It's what God says passes all understanding. His peace lasts. Kingdoms come and kingdoms go, along with the ups and downs of worldly peace that comes and dissipates. But Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and that peace is more than enough.

+ + + + +

MONDAY:

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

READ :

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

- LUKE 2:13-20

*PAUSE, READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Glory to God on high, and peace on earth to those whom He favors!  
Thank You that You favor Your children and have given us the gift of Jesus. Your peace is perfect, and I long to be covered in it. Please give me more of Your peace and joy, that it would overflow into the lives of those around me. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

*TUESDAY:*

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

*READ :*

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- JOHN 14:26-27

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Oh Lord, I am so thankful You have given me Your Holy Spirit, to be my Comforter, my Advocate, my Helper, and my Companion. You give me peace, which guards me and guides me. Help my heart and mind when I am afraid, that I might rest in the deep work of Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, amen.*

WEDNESDAY:

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

READ :

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

*PAUSE, READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Thank You that You provide peace whenever I ask. Thank You that the Prince of Peace stepped into this world to connect me to You, and to give me a deep peace that passes all understanding. Help me to grow in this peace and grow closer to You. In Jesus' name, amen.*

*THURSDAY:*

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

*READ :*

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

- COLOSSIANS 3:12-15

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Thank You that You give forgiveness, gentleness, peace, and love.  
Thank You that You are love, and You love us so much that You sent  
Jesus to save us. Help me lean into Your personal love, and wrap my  
heart with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.  
In Jesus' name, amen.*

FRIDAY:

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

READ :

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.

- ISAIAH 9:6-7

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. You have come to reign with peace. Thank You for the way You rule our hearts; may Your Kingdom come and rule in our hearts forever. Your greatness has no end and You have given me the best peace and hope. I love You. In Jesus' name, amen.*

WEEK THREE : JOY

*He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders, of His love  
Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
(And Heaven and nature sing)  
And Heaven and nature sing  
(And Heaven and nature sing)  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing*

LISTEN TO : [Joy to the World/Joyful, Joyful](#)  
by Phil Wickham feat. Maverick City Music

MAIN SCRIPTURE SUNDAY : Isaiah 35:1-10

The arrival of our King brings incredible life-change and reasons to rejoice. He's come not just for the here and now, but for our spiritual well-being and breaking the chains of sin to set us free. Joy is deeper than a skin-shallow shout for happiness. It's well-worn and hard fought, an anchored joy knowing the glories of Jesus and Joy is eternal.

*MONDAY:*

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

*READ :*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

- LUKE 2:1-12

*PAUSE, READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*You've brought great joy to our lives through the birth of Jesus! Thank You that His life points to our eternal life that we have when He comes again. What a great hope that causes us great rejoicing. Let Your light and joy be evident to the world. In Jesus' name, amen.*



*TUESDAY:*

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

*READ :*

The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah— instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

- NEHEMIAH 8:7-10

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*The joy of the Lord is my strength, and what strength that is! Thank You that Your joy is enough to draw strength and hope from, and to rejoice at Your goodness. You are worthy of praise and glory, and I will spend my life declaring this goodness. Thank You for the strength and joy I have in Jesus. In His name, amen.*

WEDNESDAY:

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

READ :

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest secure,  
because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
nor will you let your faithful [b] one see decay.  
You make known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

- PSALM 16:11

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Lord, You have revealed to me the path of life, and You will not abandon me. Jesus came to rescue me from death, and in His birth, You began the journey to bring us to life in Him. Help me to rest secure in Your promises and truth. In Jesus' name, amen.*

THURSDAY:

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

READ :

As the rain and the snow  
    come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it  
    without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
    so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,  
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
    It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
    and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.  
You will go out in joy  
    and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills  
    will burst into song before you,  
and all the trees of the field  
    will clap their hands.

- ISAIAH 55:10-12

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Father, Your word does not return void. By Your word, You have brought forth promises fulfilled in Christ. Thank You that the whole earth is filled with Your glory, and You accomplish what You desire. I praise You and thank You for the joy of this season. In Jesus' name, amen.*

*FRIDAY:*

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

*READ :*

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

- JOHN 15:9-11

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Lord, thank You for Your love. Thank You that You want me to remain in Your love, and that the greatest love You gave in Jesus. Keep me close to You and hold me in Your steadfast truth, protection, and care. Make my joy complete in You. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

WEEK FOUR : **LOVE**

*Oh Holy Night*

*Truly He taught us to love one another*

*His law is love and His gospel is peace*

*Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother*

*And in His name all oppression shall cease*

*Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,*

*Let all within us praise His holy name*

*LISTEN TO : Oh Holy Night*

*Live by The Worship Initiative*

MAIN SCRIPTURE SUNDAY : **Isaiah 7:10-16**

As 1 Corinthians 13 says, these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. God sent His Son to earth because of love. Because of His great love for us. He sent Jesus, whom He loved deeply, to topple sin's reign and return His people to Himself. We love because God first loved us, and we get to live in the pure love of Jesus. What love He has lavished on us!

+ + + + +

MONDAY:

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

READ :

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”

- LUKE 1:46-55

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Mighty One, You do wonderful things. You do great things around the world, and You have done great things for me. Thank You that You lift up the humble, and Your mercy lasts forever. Help me to share Your mercy with the people around me. In Jesus' name, amen.*

*TUESDAY:*

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

*READ :*

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

- JOHN 3:16-17

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Oh God, great is Your love and goodness! Thank You for such love that You gave Your only Son to take on the punishment I deserve. Thank You that in Jesus, we are brought close to You, and Your heartbeat for us is not condemnation, but to be saved. What grace. What love. Thank You! In Jesus' name, amen.*

WEDNESDAY:

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

READ :

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails.

- 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-8

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Love is patient. Love is kind. You are patient, and You are kind. Thank You for this example of love, how it is at the core of all things. Your love guides everything You do. God, You love us so much. You love me so much. Help me be more open to truly experience how deep and good this love is. I need Your lasting love today. In Jesus' name, amen.*



THURSDAY:

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

READ :

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

-1 JOHN 4:7-12

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Thank You that love comes from You. Thank You that we see this in Jesus. Help me to love with a love like Jesus. I want to experience Your completeness. Father, show me more of Jesus, and let Holy Spirit move in me to transform me into His image. You are faithful and true. In Jesus' name, amen.*

*FRIDAY:*

Invite Holy Spirit to be with you in this time. Ask Him for direction, wisdom, illumination to the passage and in your heart.

*READ :*

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

- MATTHEW 22:34-40

*PAUSE. READ AGAIN. What words, phrases, or sentiments stand out to you? What is God saying through this passage?*

*SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Spend a few minutes in silence, or play the song of the week. Read back over the Scripture and questions. Journal. Draw. Allow yourself room for the Lord.*

*Father Praise Your holy name! Christ is the Lord, and He has set me free! Thank You that He has given me the greatest example of how to love You and love others. What a beautiful life. Father, may I life begin to look more like Jesus', that I may shine Your light into this world in need of the love, salvation, and peace You freely offer. What a joy to love You. In Jesus' name, amen.*

FOR CHRISTMAS

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Risen with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born king"*

*LISTEN TO :* Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
by Kari Jobe

The Kingdom has come! The baby in the manger has arrived in this world to save it from itself and begin the everlasting Kingdom work that is here today. Jesus brings the true hope, peace, joy, and love our longing hearts wait for. But we wait no more—Jesus is here with us, longing to give you all abundant love, peace, wisdom, grace, and more. Hold His love in your heart and live out the miracle of Christ to those around us.

May the Lord bless you with His deep and abiding grace, mercy, and love. Our Savior has come, and we keep Him in us all year long, eagerly longing for His coming again.

*GLORY BE TO GOD!*

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VINEYARD CHURCH