



SEND THE  
**Light**

*A Four Week Journey through Advent*

# Welcome to Advent!

There is a card in this devotional pack for every day of a full four week-Advent season, along with a card for Christmas Day. Not every Advent has four full weeks. When Christmas Day arrives, you can either skip to the last card and end your Advent journey, or you can finish out the cards during the days that follow Christmas.

## Ideas for using this devotion:

- Read the scripture side of the card in the morning and reflect on it during the day. Read the action side of the card in the evening.
- Pair the cards with a daily ritual you already have, like morning coffee, or a new ritual, like lighting Advent candles.
- Use the cards as a prompt for dinner discussion with your household.
- String the cards up on a strong ribbon using miniature clothespins. It's like an Advent calendar and a garland rolled into one!
- Start with good intentions, forget about it halfway through, and forgive yourself! It's a busy season, and Advent will always come again.

SEND THE  
**Light**



# Hope

SEND

First Sunday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | Mark 13:24-26

But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.  
Then they will see 'the Son of Man  
coming in clouds' with great power and glory.

# Sunday | Ask

This week's theme is hope. As Christians, we put our hope in Christ. Just as our ancient ancestors in faith waited hopefully for a Savior, we also wait hopefully for Jesus to come again "with great power and glory" to make all things new.

In writing, in conversation, or in your heart, answer these questions:

**What are you hoping God will do in your life this Advent?**

**What are you hoping God will do in the world this Advent?**



# SEND Hope

First Monday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | Ephesians 1:17-19

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

# Monday | Ponder

Today's scripture is a prayer by the Apostle Paul for the people at Ephesus. Paul prays that "the eyes of their hearts" will have enough light to see the hope we have in God.

This season we are surrounded by lights--some comforting, some dazzling, some blinding. What helps you see God's power and sustains your ability to have hope? What distracts you from seeing God at work? And what blinds you to God's activity?

**Reflect on today's verses from Scripture. What wisdom do they have for you?**



# SEND *Hope*

First Tuesday of Advent

Verse of the Day | Psalm 119:114

You are my refuge and my shield;  
I have put my hope in your word.”

# Tuesday | Listen

Find a version of “O Holy Night.” Listen especially for the following lyrics. What emotions does the song stir in you today?

Long lay the world  
in sin and error pining  
'til He appeared  
and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope--  
the weary world rejoices!  
For yonder breaks  
a new and glorious morn.



# SEND Hope

First Wednesday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | Psalm 33:20-22

Our soul waits for the Lord;  
he is our help and shield.

Our heart is glad in him  
because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.

# Wednesday | Pause

The week is half over. Find a few minutes today to pause, give thanks for what you have seen God do, and ask God's help for any stresses you are facing. You are encouraged to light a candle and include a time of silence and rest along with your prayers.

**Holy God,  
my soul is waiting.  
But even while I wait,  
I am already with you.  
Here in this room,  
here in my heart,  
I know you are with me.  
Amen.**



# SEND Hope

First Thursday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

# Thursday | Reflect

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Rome to encourage them to hold tight to their faith in the midst of that busy, chaotic, cruel city, right in the heart of an empire. Following Christ, he reminds them, means you will incur affliction; following Christ will put you at odds with the world. Yet, speaking from his own experience, Paul insists that affliction ultimately leads to hope, because it is in the darkest times that we can see God's light shining most brightly. The point is not to "build character" by seeking out suffering, but to let God shape our character towards hope in times of suffering.

**When have you felt hope in God despite the outward circumstances? If you are in a time of affliction now, what practice can help you reclaim hope?**



# SEND Hope

First Friday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | Matthew 12:18-21

Here is my servant whom I have chosen,  
the one I love, in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.  
He will not quarrel or cry out;  
no one will hear his voice in the streets.  
A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,  
till he has brought justice through to victory.  
In his name the nations will put their hope.

# Friday | Give Hope

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus recalls the words of Isaiah to describe his own mission: to serve God by bringing justice to the oppressed and caring for those who are worn out. Take a few minutes to follow in Jesus' footsteps by serving those in need of justice and care:

Ideas:

- Go through your winter coats and see if there are any to donate to a coat drive.
- Commit to buying a Christmas gift for a local child in need.
- Donate money to a cause that supports those in seemingly hopeless situations.



# SEND *Hope*

First Saturday of Advent

Verse of the Day | Romans 15:13

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.

# Saturday | Receive Hope

**This is the season of giving, but giving without ever taking time to receive can leave us empty and exhausted.**

Take a few minutes today to fill your cup, whether that means going for a walk, watching a favorite movie, calling a trusted friend, or spending time in prayer. If you find yourself particularly low on hope, seek out stories, people, or practices that fill you with hope in God and in God's children.

Remember, the promises are for you, too. You are worthy of receiving God's hope.



# P SEND Peace

Second Sunday of Advent

Verse of the Day | John 1:6-8

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

# Sunday | Ask

This week's theme is peace. As Christians, we reach for peace that is more than just the absence of violence or tension. Our lives testify to the Prince of Peace, who rules not because he has the biggest army or strongest arsenal but because he moves hearts to mercy and compassion.

In writing, in conversation, or in your heart, answer these questions:

**Where do you need to feel God's peace in your life?**

**What gifts has God given you to be a peacemaker in the world?**

# P SEND Peace



Second Monday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | Luke 1:76-78

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to shine upon those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

# Monday | Ponder

Today's scripture is part of prophecy spoken by Zechariah to his newborn son John.

Zechariah knew that his son was special--that he was to prepare the people to receive Jesus by encouraging them to repent of sin and open their hearts to new teachings. Jesus, Zechariah says, will be like "a dawn from on high" breaking upon us, to guide our feet in the way of peace. Zechariah's world, like ours, was haunted by war, division, and fear, but he believed God had a different dream for humanity--a dream of peace for all people.

**Reflect on today's verses from Scripture.  
What wisdom do they have for you?**



# P SEND Peace

Second Tuesday of Advent

Verse of the Day | Isaiah 9:6

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

# Tuesday | Listen

Find a version of “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear.” Listen especially for the following lyrics. What emotions does the song stir in you today?

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.



# P

SEND  
*Peace*

Second Wednesday of Advent

Verse of the Day | John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

# Wednesday | Pause

The week is half over. Find a few minutes today to pause, give thanks for what you have seen God do, and ask God's help for any stresses you are facing. You are encouraged to light a candle and include a time of silence and rest along with your prayers.

**Merciful Savior, I need your peace.  
I believe in your promises,  
but there is so much in the world  
to be troubled by.  
So give me your peace again,  
and help me receive it  
as a gift to treasure for myself  
and to give to others, too.  
Amen.**

# P SEND Peace



Second Thursday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | Romans 14:17-19

For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The one who serves Christ in this way is acceptable to God and has human approval. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

# Thursday | Reflect

The church at Rome had a problem--they were divided about what to eat! More than divided, they were judging each other, criticizing each other, and walking away from each other over this division about "a holy diet." It may sound quaint to us now, but just think how many family fights have started over who was bringing what food to the holidays!

Paul wrote to remind them that the kingdom of God is not about what you eat, but how you live--with righteousness and peace. Righteousness, remember, isn't about being right according to our standards, but about being right with God and each other.

Think about your relationships as they stand today. Are there any where you have focused too much on "being right" and not enough on righteousness and peace? How could you "pursue what makes for peace" in the days to come?



# P

SEND  
*Peace*

Second Friday of Advent

**Verse of the Day | Matthew 5:79**

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

# Friday | Give Peace

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus blesses those who bless the world: the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers. Take a few minutes to follow in Jesus' footsteps by blessing those in need of your gifts:

Ideas:

- Send a note of encouragement to someone in a painful or stressful situation.
- Research local recycling options to ease the strain on our planet.
- Donate money to a cause that works to reduce violence, solve conflict, or decrease anxiety in the world.

# P SEND Peace



Second Saturday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | **Philippians 4:6-7**

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.

# Saturday | Receive Peace

**This is the season of giving, but giving without ever taking time to receive can leave us empty and exhausted.**

Take a few minutes today to fill your cup, whether that means going for a walk, watching a favorite movie, calling a trusted friend, or spending time in prayer. If you find yourself particularly angry or afraid, seek out stories, people, or practices that help you access Christ's peace.

Remember, the promises are for you, too. You are worthy of receiving God's peace.

# SEND Joy

Third Sunday of Advent



## Verse of the Day | Luke 1:46-48

Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor  
on the lowliness of his servant.

# Sunday | Ask

This week's theme is joy. As Christians, joy is more than just happiness or pleasure in the things we like. Joy is what we feel when we get a glimpse of the kingdom of God, even before we can see it in full. Joy is not a luxury, but a source of strength as we go through our lives of faith.

In writing, in conversation, or in your heart, answer these questions:

**Where do you need to feel God's joy in your life?**

**Where do you see God's joy breaking out in the world?**

# SEND Joy

Third Monday of Advent



## Verse of the Day | Nehemiah 8:10

Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

# Monday | Ponder

Today's scripture is part of a longer story about the rebuilding of the Temple after its destruction in war. On that day, Ezra read out the Law of God. At first people wept, but Ezra reminded them that God's law is not designed to make our lives harder, but to make our lives joyful. When we truly love God and love our neighbor as ourselves, then there is plenty of joy to go around.

Ezra commanded a feast to celebrate God's Law, making sure that rich and poor both had plenty to eat. When was the last time you celebrated God's presence in your life that viscerally?

**Reflect on today's verses from Scripture. What wisdom do they have for you?**



# SEND Joy

Third Tuesday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | Psalm 30:4-5

Sing the praises of the Lord,  
you his faithful people;  
praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment,  
but his favor lasts a lifetime;  
weeping may stay for the night,  
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

# Tuesday | Listen

Find a version of “Joy to the World.” Listen especially for the following lyrics. What emotions does the song stir in you today?

**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 heaven and nature sing.**

# SEND Joy

Third Wednesday of Advent



**Verse of the Day | Philippians 4:4-5**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

# Wednesday | Pause

The week is half over. Find a few minutes today to pause, give thanks for what you have seen God do, and ask God's help for any stresses you are facing. You are encouraged to light a candle and include a time of silence and rest along with your prayers.

**Jesus, Light of the World,  
I'm searching for joy  
but I'm struggling.  
There's plenty of frivolity,  
and plenty of despair,  
but I'm not satisfied with either.  
Help me to find my joy in you.  
Lead me deep into your heart.  
Let me rest there.  
Amen.**

# SEND Joy



Third Thursday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | Luke 15:4-7

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

# Thursday | Reflect

Like many parables, the parable Jesus tells about the lost sheep doesn't make a lot sense when you think about it. It's not worth it, economically, to risk 99 sheep for the sake of one, and even if you do find it, you're more likely to be annoyed and exhausted than joyful. You certainly wouldn't call all your neighbors to tell them you found one sorry sheep! Yet Jesus paints a picture of a shepherd's nonsensical joy, because one of his own is found. By extension, Jesus is telling us that God's joy doesn't always make sense by our rules. God feels big, wide, celebratory joy in us, just because we belong to God!

Think about the people or situations in your life that bring you the biggest joy. Do you allow yourself to celebrate them, even if it doesn't "make sense?" If not, what could you do this week to be part of God's party-throwing spirit?

# SEND Joy

Third Friday of Advent



## Verse of the Day | Luke 2:9-11

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

# Friday | Give Joy

In the Gospel of Luke, an angel pronounces the “good news of great joy” for all people --no exceptions. Take a few minutes to follow in Jesus’ footsteps by sharing joy with those in need of it:

Ideas:

- Make a care package for a college student, member of our military, or even your postal worker!
- Visit or call someone who may be lonely over the holidays.
- Donate money to a cause that works to reduce suffering and increase joy in the world.



# SEND Joy

Third Saturday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | Psalm 30:11-12

You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy,  
so that my soul may praise you  
and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you  
forever.

# Saturday | Receive Joy

**This is the season of giving, but giving without ever taking time to receive can leave us empty and exhausted.**

Take a few minutes today to fill your cup, whether that means going for a walk, watching a favorite movie, calling a trusted friend, or spending time in prayer. If you find yourself particularly despairing or apathetic, seek out stories, people, or practices that help you access Christ's joy.

Remember, the promises are for you, too. You are worthy of receiving God's joy.

# SEND Love

Fourth Sunday of Advent



## Verse of the Day | Luke 1:30-31

The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus."

# Sunday | Ask

This week's theme is love. As Christians, to love and be loved is both our highest privilege and deepest command. As we move from Advent towards celebrating Christmas, we remember that Jesus came into the world to show us God's love up close--love that heals us, forgives us, frees us, saves us, and draws us to God forever.

In writing, in conversation, or in your heart, answer these questions:

**Where do you need to feel God's love in your life?**

**Where do you see God's love active in the world?**

# SEND Love

Fourth Monday of Advent



## Verse of the Day | John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

# Monday | Ponder

Today's scripture is one of the most famous in the Bible. In a few succinct words, the Gospel of John allays our fears. Jesus has not come to earth to scold, punish, or condemn us, but to prove to us the depth of God's love for humankind. All of God's actions recorded in scripture--the creation of the world, the freeing of the Hebrews, the incarnation of Jesus, his crucifixion and resurrection, and every fulfilled promise of hope, peace, and joy--point to God's love. The very breath in your lungs this morning is likewise a gift of love. Will you let yourself believe today how very loved you are?

**Reflect on today's verses from Scripture.  
What wisdom do they have for you?**

# SEND Love

Fourth Tuesday of Advent



## Verse of the Day | Psalm 36:7-9

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
All people may take refuge  
in the shadow of your wings.  
They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink  
from the river of your delights.  
For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.

# Tuesday | Listen

Find a version of “Silent Night.” Listen especially for the following lyrics. What emotions does the song stir in you today?

**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!**



# SEND Love

Fourth Wednesday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | John 15:8-11

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

# Wednesday | Pause

The week is half over. Find a few minutes today to pause, give thanks for what you have seen God do, and ask God's help for any stresses you are facing. You are encouraged to light a candle and include a time of silence and rest along with your prayers.

**Jesus, Friend and Savior,**

**I want to abide in your love.**

**I want to rest and simply be.**

**But I struggle.**

**I worry I am not doing enough,  
even while I am doing too much.**

**Help me reclaim the ability to abide:  
to simply sit and rest and be loved.**

**Amen.**



# SEND Love

Fourth Thursday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

# Thursday | Reflect

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul devotes an entire chapter to love. In fact, Paul spends a great deal of time in all his letters talking about love! Here, though, he takes a few minutes to define what love looks like in everyday interactions. Love is patient, kind, forgiving, gracious, and most of all, lasting. This is the love that Jesus has for us, and enables us to have for other people.

It's all too easy for us to say the word love and forget to act lovingly. Use Paul's words as checklist. When you think about your behavior to the people you love lately, are you living up to the model Christ gives us? And are you extending that same love to yourself?

# SEND Love

Fourth Friday of Advent



## Verse of the Day | Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

# Friday | Give Love

The greatest commandments Jesus gives us are to love God and love our neighbors. These two laws are the foundation of our Christian living. Take a few minutes to follow in Jesus' footsteps by sharing love with your neighbors:

Ideas:

- Make a plan to donate food to a feeding ministry or nonprofit sometime in the new year, when many pantries run out of holiday donations.
- Make cards or cookies for the folks at your local firehouse, police station, or emergency room who will work over Christmas.
- Donate money to a cause that works to improve the lives of your neighbors.



# SEND Love

Fourth Saturday of Advent

## Verse of the Day | Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced  
that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# Saturday | Receive Love

**This is the season of giving, but giving without ever taking time to receive can leave us empty and exhausted.**

Take a few minutes today to fill your cup, whether that means going for a walk, watching a favorite movie, calling a trusted friend, or spending time in prayer. If you find yourself particularly lonely or raw, seek out stories, people, or practices that help you feel wrapped in Christ's love.

Remember, the promises are for you, too. You are worthy of receiving God's love.



SEND THE  
**Light**  
Christmas Day

### **Verse of the Day | John 1:1-5**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

# Christmas | Celebrate

**The light of the world is here!**

As you celebrate today, take delight in the gifts that God is giving you, not only on Christmas but every day of your life:

the gift of breath,  
the gift of human connection,  
the gift of the natural world,  
the gift of your own unique self,  
the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love,  
and the gift of God's own presence with you  
today and every day to come.