



THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES

ADVENT 2025



CROSSPOINT ADVENT DEVOTIONS

CHRISTMAS IS A WONDERFULLY MEANINGFUL SEASON — BUT IT CAN ALSO BE A BUSY ONE. BETWEEN EVENTS, GATHERINGS, AND TO-DO LISTS, IT'S EASY TO MOVE FROM ONE THING TO THE NEXT WITHOUT PAUSING TO REMEMBER WHY WE CELEBRATE. THIS ADVENT, WE INVITE YOU TO SLOW DOWN AND REFLECT ON THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL — OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.

EACH WEEK INCLUDES ONE DEVOTION, DESIGNED TO BE COMPLETED BY ANY FAMILY UNIT — WHETHER YOUR HOME IS MADE UP OF ONE PERSON OR MANY.

YOU'LL NEED ONLY A LIGHTER FOR THE CANDLES. A MAT FOR YOUR ADVENT WREATH IS INCLUDED, BUT IF YOU'D LIKE TO CREATE YOUR OWN CANDLE HOLDER, SCAN THE PINTEREST QR CODE BELOW FOR IDEAS AND INSPIRATION.

EACH WEEK ALSO INCLUDES SONG SUGGESTIONS TO HELP YOU SLOW DOWN AND WORSHIP. YOU CAN LISTEN THROUGH OUR PLAYLIST USING THE QR CODE, OR SIMPLY SING A FAMILIAR CHRISTMAS CAROL.

USE THE “DISCUSSION” SECTION IN WHATEVER WAY BEST FITS YOUR HOME. IF YOU HAVE YOUNG CHILDREN OR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, UTILIZE THE “FOR YOUNGER KIDS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS” SECTION. IF YOUR GROUP INCLUDES TEENS OR ADULTS, THE “DIVING DEEPER” SECTION CAN HELP GUIDE RICHER CONVERSATION.

FINALLY, YOU'LL FIND MISSIONAL ACTIVITIES EACH WEEK — SIMPLE WAYS TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF SERVING JESUS AND SHARING HIS LOVE WITH OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS. CHOOSE THE ACTIVITIES THAT BEST FIT YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

WE LOVE OUR CHURCH FAMILY, AND WE ARE HERE FOR YOU. MAY THIS ADVENT SEASON FILL YOUR HEART AND HOME WITH HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE — AND REMIND YOU AGAIN OF THE SAVIOR WHO HOLDS US ALL TOGETHER.



PINTEREST



SPOTIFY



WEEK 1

And His name will be the hope of all the world. - Matthew 12:21

Prayer

Father, as we light this candle today, remind us of the eternal hope we have in You — the God of Hope — and in Your Son, Jesus Christ. May His light fill our hearts as we wait and trust in You.

Lighting of the Candle

Today we light the first Advent candle — the Candle of Hope (purple).

The people of God once waited and hoped for the coming of a promised Messiah, a hope fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. Today, we place our hope in His promise to return and make all things new.

Devotion

Do you ever find yourself worn out — too tired to cook another meal, sit through another meeting, or take one more test? We all feel weary at times. But why is that?

Because deep down, we know this world is not as it should be. We were made for perfect communion with God, yet because of sin, the world — and even our hearts — are broken. We try to fill that ache with busyness, mindless scrolling, entertainment, or distractions, but they never truly satisfy.

This weariness is nothing new. People in every generation have longed for relief, for rest, for hope. And that's exactly what Jesus came to bring.

When Jesus walked the earth, He met weary people right where they were — the sick, the lonely, the hurting. He healed their bodies, yes, but more than that, He offered them eternal hope. Matthew tells us:

“Look at my Servant, whom I have chosen.
He is my Beloved, who pleases me.
I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.
He will not fight or shout
or raise his voice in public.
He will not crush the weakest reed
or put out a flickering candle.
Finally he will cause justice to be victorious.
And his name will be the hope of all the world.”
— Matthew 12:18–21 (NLT)

Take note of that last verse: “And his name will be the hope of all the world.”

What a powerful truth! Jesus is the hope the world has been waiting for — the hope that gives strength to the weary, light to the darkness, and purpose to the brokenhearted.

So we must ask: Where is your hope? Is it found in Jesus? Or are you chasing things that seem hopeful but leave you empty? Today, lift your eyes to the One whose coming caused the weary world to rejoice.

Reflection

- **Where do you see people searching for hope today?**
- **What does it mean that Jesus is your hope?**
- **How can you or your family share hope with someone this week?**

Diving Deeper

Hope isn't wishful thinking — it's confident trust in God's promises. Throughout scripture, we see that God's people have always placed their hope in Him, even when life felt uncertain. This week, take time to read these verses and think about what each one teaches about hope:

- **Romans 15:13 — God is the true source of our hope.**
- **Isaiah 40:29–31 — God gives strength to the weary.**
- **1 Peter 1:3–5 — Because Jesus is alive, our hope is alive too.**
- **Hebrews 10:23 — We can hold tightly to hope because God always keeps His promises.**

Reflection:

- **How do these verses remind us that our hope in Jesus is steady, even when life feels hard?**
- **Which verse means the most to you right now, and why?**

For Younger Children and Special Friends

Read the account of the birth of John the Baptist from Luke 1:5-25. Talk about how John prepared the way for Jesus to be born.

Mission Activity

- 1) Spread hope by inviting someone to join you for CrossPoint's Christmas musical. Enclosed are cards with more information.**
- 2) Share the hope that you have in Christ with someone.**
- 3) Think about someone you know that may be feeling hopeless. How can you practically minister to that person this week?**

Songs

“I Have this Hope” - Tenth Avenue North

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” - King + Country, NEEDTOBREATHE

“Living Hope” - Phil Wickham

“Hope Has a Name” - River Valley Worship



LOVE

WEEK TWO

WEEK 2

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His faithful love endures forever. - Psalm 136:1

Prayer

Father, thank You for showing us what true love looks like through Jesus. As we light this candle, fill our hearts with Your love so that we can share it with a weary world in need of You.

Lighting of the Candle

Today we light the second Advent candle, the candle of love (purple). This candle reminds us that God's love has been shown to the world through His Son, Jesus Christ. His love isn't just a feeling — it's action. God's love rescues, forgives, and restores.

Scripture

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to him who made the heavens so skillfully.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to him who placed the earth among the waters.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to him who made the heavenly lights—

His faithful love endures forever.

the sun to rule the day,

His faithful love endures forever.

and the moon and stars to rule the night.

His faithful love endures forever.

He remembered us in our weakness.

His faithful love endures forever.

He saved us from our enemies.

His faithful love endures forever.

He gives food to every living thing.

His faithful love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of heaven.

His faithful love endures forever.

Devotion

Psalm 136 is a song of remembrance — a look back at how God has always loved His people. Every verse ends with the same phrase: "His faithful love endures forever."

That repetition isn't just poetic — it's powerful. It reminds us that no matter what God's people faced — slavery in Egypt, wandering in the desert, or battles against their enemies — His love never stopped. Through every season, every hardship, and every moment of weariness, God's love endured.

That same enduring love is what makes the weary world rejoice. When the world feels heavy and broken, God's love breaks through the darkness. His love is patient when we're slow to trust. It's steady when life feels uncertain. It's strong enough to carry us when we're tired and can't see the way forward.

When Jesus came, He was the living proof of that love. He met people who were weary and hurting — the sick, the lonely, and the forgotten — and gave them a reason to rejoice. He didn't just say "I love you"; He showed it by healing, forgiving, and ultimately giving His life for us.

So as we light the candle of love, we remember that the same God who carried His people through the wilderness carries us too. Because His love endures forever, we can find joy — even in a weary world.

Activity

Create your own song of remembrance. This can be done as an individual or as a family. Write down some of the highs and lows you've experienced — moments of joy and times of struggle. After each statement, add the phrase: "His faithful love endures forever."

Let this be a reminder that God's love is constant — in the good days and the hard ones. Keep your song to look back on in future years as a testimony that His love truly endures forever.

Diving Deeper

Read Romans 8:38-39. "Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Think about how that verse connects with Psalm 136. How does knowing God's love endures forever change the way we live and love others?

For Younger Kids and Special Friends

Read the account of the angel visiting Mary from Luke 1:26-38. Talk about how God loved us so much he sent his only son to us to save us.

Mission Activity

- 1) Write an encouraging note with Scripture to someone you love, a teacher, or someone in the hospital.
- 2) Help an elderly neighbor or church member by raking leaves and cleaning up their yard.
- 3) Get together with another family and go Christmas caroling at a widow's home.
- 4) Leave care packages with snacks, water, and a Bible verse for your mail carrier and delivery people.

Songs

"What Child is This" - Chris Tomlin

"Love Came Down" - Kari Jobe

"King of Kings" - Hillsong Worship

"How He Loves" - The Worship Initiative, Shane & Shane



JOY
WEEK THREE

WEEK 3

*And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...
for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. - Luke 1:46-47, 49*

Prayer

Father, as we light this candle today, remind us that true joy is found in you. Fill our hearts with the same joy Mary felt when she heard the good news that the Savior was coming. May our lives overflow with joy that shines your light to the world.

Lighting of the Candle

Today we light the third Advent candle — the Candle of Joy (pink).

Joy is not the same as happiness. Happiness changes with our circumstances, but joy is rooted in the unchanging truth that God is with us. The people of God rejoiced at the promise of a coming Savior. Today, we rejoice because Jesus has come — and He will come again.

Scripture

Luke 1:39-56

Devotion

When the angel told Mary she would give birth to the Son of God, her life was about to change in every possible way. She was young, engaged, and living in a small town. This wasn't part of her plan — and yet, instead of fear or complaint, her heart erupted in praise. She sang:

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.” — Luke 1:46–49

Mary's joy did not come from her circumstances, but from her Savior. She believed God's promises and trusted His plan. Her song reminds us that joy doesn't depend on what is happening around us — it grows from knowing who God is and what He is doing within us.

Even when life feels uncertain or heavy, we can rejoice as Mary did. God is faithful. He keeps His promises. And His presence with us — Emmanuel — is reason for great joy.

Life can make us weary. We may forget that the source of our joy does not depend on our circumstances. True joy comes from knowing that being held by the Giver is far more important than what comes from the Giver's hand. Even in our weariness, we can lift our hearts in praise, because the One who came to us as a baby — and who comes to us now — brings joy that nothing in this world can take away.

Reflection

- What do you think made Mary sing with joy, even when things were hard?
- What's the difference between happiness and joy?
- How can you choose joy this week, even when circumstances aren't easy?

Diving Deeper

Joy runs through the entire story of Scripture. God's people rejoiced not because life was perfect, but because they trusted in his goodness.

Read these verses about joy and reflect on what each one teaches:

- Nehemiah 8:10 — The joy of the Lord is our strength.
- Psalm 16:11 — In God's presence there is fullness of joy.
- John 15:11 — Jesus gives us his joy so it can be complete in us.
- Philippians 4:4 — Rejoice in the Lord always.

Reflection:

- Which of these verses reminds you most of the kind of joy Mary had?
- How can you make time for joy in God's presence this week?

For Younger Kids and Special Friends

Read about Mary visiting Elizabeth (Luke 1:39–45). Talk about how baby John leaped for joy in Elizabeth's tummy when he heard Mary's voice. Even before Jesus was born, His presence brought joy!

Mission Activity

- 1) Share one thing each day that brings you joy and thank God for it.
- 2) Think of someone who feels weary right now. How can your family help them rejoice this week?

Songs

"Joy, Unspeakable Joy" - Chris Tomlin

"Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful)" - Phil Wickham

"My Soul Magnifies the Lord" - Chris Tomlin



WEEK 4

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. - Isaiah 26:3

Prayer

Father, as we light this candle today, calm our hearts with Your perfect peace. In a world that is often noisy, chaotic, and full of worry, remind us that you are our Prince of Peace. May your presence settle our hearts and help us share your peace with those around us.

Lighting of the Candle

Today we light the fourth Advent candle — the Candle of Peace (purple).

Peace is more than the absence of conflict. True peace comes from God himself — from knowing that he is in control, that his promises are faithful, and that his Son has come to reconcile the world to him. Even in the midst of a weary world, we can have peace because Emmanuel — God with us — is near.

Scripture

Isaiah 26:3

Devotion

Peace can feel hard to find — especially when life feels uncertain or the world feels heavy. Our hearts can be easily shaken by the things we can't control: the headlines we read, the choices of others, or the worries that keep us up at night. But Isaiah reminds us that peace isn't found by escaping our problems; it's found by fixing our minds on God.

When Isaiah wrote these words, Judah was living in uncertain times — surrounded by threats from powerful nations, led by unfaithful kings, and facing the looming shadow of exile. God's people were anxious and afraid. So this vision of "perfect peace" wasn't describing what they were currently experiencing — it was a promise to hold onto. It reminded them that lasting peace would only come through trusting God completely.

When our thoughts wander toward fear, we lose our footing. But when our minds are fixed on the Lord — on his power, his goodness, and his promises — he steadies us.

The Hebrew word for "peace" here is shalom. It means much more than the absence of conflict. Shalom carries the idea of:

- Wholeness — nothing missing, nothing broken.
- Harmony — peace with God, with others, and within ourselves.
- Well-being — security, safety, and inner rest.
- Completeness — fullness of life as God intends it.

When Isaiah writes,

"You will keep in perfect peace (shalom, shalom) those whose minds are steadfast..." (Isaiah 26:3)

he actually repeats the word twice in Hebrew — shalom, shalom. That repetition deepens the meaning: not just ordinary peace, but complete, unshakable peace.

This is the kind of peace that carried Mary and Joseph through their uncertainty. Their world was anything but calm — a long journey, a crowded town, no room to stay, and the weight of raising the Son of God. Yet even in the unknown, they rested in what they did know: that God was faithful and that his promises never fail.

That same peace is available to us today. When we choose to trust God instead of our feelings — when we fix our thoughts on his truth instead of our fears — he keeps us in perfect peace. The phrase “perfect peace” literally means “peace, peace” — complete, lasting peace that doesn’t depend on what’s happening around us.

So when your heart feels weary or restless this season, pause and remember: peace isn’t the absence of chaos; it’s the presence of Christ. And because he has come, the weary world — and weary hearts — can rejoice.

Reflection

- What helps you keep your mind focused on God when you start to worry?
- How can trusting God’s goodness give you peace, even when life feels uncertain?
- Who in your life needs to experience God’s peace this week?

Diving Deeper

Peace grows when we trust God’s character. Read these verses together and talk about what they teach about His peace:

- John 14:27 — Jesus gives peace that the world cannot give.
- Philippians 4:6–7 — God’s peace guards our hearts and minds.
- Colossians 3:15 — Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
- Isaiah 26:3 — God keeps in perfect peace those who trust in Him.

Reflection:

Which of these verses encourages you most when your thoughts feel scattered or anxious?

How can you practice fixing your mind on Jesus this week?

For Younger Kids and Special Friends

Read the account of God blessing Abraham from Genesis 12:1-3. Talk about how long before Jesus came to rescue us God promised us he would bless us through the family of Abraham. About 2,000 years and 42 generations later, Jesus was born through the line of Abraham.

Mission activity

- 1) Christmastime can feel anything but peaceful for some. It can feel quite chaotic. Help a single parent out this Christmas by cooking a meal, babysitting, wrapping gifts, or doing something to help them slow down and find peace.
- 2) Is there someone in your life you need to make peace with? Call that person this week and demonstrate the love and grace of Jesus.

Songs

“Silent Night” - Casting Crowns

“Peace Be Still” - Lauren Daigle

“Jesus Messiah” - Matt Redman

“It Is Well with My Soul” - The Worship Initiative, Shane & Shane



CHRISTMAS
DAY

CHRISTMAS DAY

Today's devotion is a little different. Use this day to reflect on the gift we have in Jesus. We encourage you to begin your Christmas morning by being in God's word. Take a moment to reflect on Jesus before the busyness of the day begins.

Prayer

Lord, today has been anticipated in many ways. For some, gifts and family time have been the main focus of anticipation. But for those who love you, we know the real anticipation is in the celebration of you sending us your son and knowing he will return for us.

Lighting of the Candle

Today the fifth candle will be lit, the Christ candle (white). As you look at the whole wreath lit, you can rejoice. Jesus, the light of the world, came into the world to save us from our sins. Jesus will return one day for those who believe in him.

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20

Reflection

After reading Luke 2, pause and pray to the Lord. Thank him for salvation in Jesus and that he will return for us.

Mission Activity

Many will be seeing loved ones on this day. Is there someone with whom you need to share that Jesus is the only one who saves and he is coming back for those who believe in him? If so, ask the Lord to prepare the heart(s) of your loved one(s) and allow the spirit to work through you today.

Songs

"Away in a Manger (Forever Amen)" - Phil Wickham

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" - Shane & Shane

"Go Tell It" - Forrest Frank

CROSSPOINT

8000 LILES LANE, TRUSSVILLE, AL 35173

205.655.0364

WWW.CROSSPOINTCHURCH.INFO



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