

a
SEASON
— OF —
PEACE

Advent Devotions
for Seniors





For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Introduction



I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. ✨ **JOHN 16:33**

Welcome to the season of Advent! The devotions in this booklet designed for older adults are centered on the concept of peace. We are all in need of peace in our lives, especially during this time of change and upheaval in our world today. Advent is meant to bring us back to the quiet and stillness of being with our God and waiting for the birth of his Son, Jesus, into our human existence.

That is where these devotions come in. They provide us with a way to stop the busyness of preparing for Christmas and help us find calm in Christ amidst the chaos around us. The experiences related in these reflections from our authors reveal to us that the peace of Christ has always been with us—in our younger days, in our current situation and in the time to come. Just like the shepherds in Bethlehem discovered from the angel on Christmas, our every fear is replaced with peace, good will to all because of Christ's arrival. Peace be with you this season and always.

MARK ZIMMERMANN, *editor*

Life Is an “Advent–sure”

*I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word
I hope. * PSALM 130:5*

Life is an “Advent-sure” because we know how it all turns out! It is the coming of our Lord to be with us, in us and among us. His coming is a “given.” Christ’s presence in and through us is always a sure thing. Advent assures us again and again, whether we look like it, feel like it or even act like it, that Christ is the one who gifts us with the Advent-sure of a lifetime!

Advent is the perfect time to help others come to realize that they are also on the best Advent-sure of their lives! We use our gifts by providing support, encouragement and hope to those around us!

Thank the Lord today for the encouraging gift of Advent which prepares us to love and to serve him by loving and serving others. Give thanks to him for the daily Advent-sure he provide us. And that’s for SURE!

RICH BIMLER | *Bloomington, IL*

*Lord, encourage us to share our Advent-sure with those around us—the lonely, the lost, the last, the least.
Amen.*

SEEK: Seek people out in your life who need some encouraging words.

READ: 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Philippians 2:1-3

MONDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Preparing *with* Christ



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs ...

✱ **COLOSSIANS 3:16**

As a child, I saw Christmas tree lights as alive with joy and hope. I'd sit close to the tree, letting happy feelings grow, looking forward to Christmas Day with family and friends. Now, Christmas celebrations are different, with fewer loved ones present. But anticipating Christ's coming still lifts my spirits.

We can find joy and hope this Advent by staying close to Jesus. Let's prepare for Christ's coming by preparing *with* Christ—not keeping him at a distance until Christmas Day. Let's find moments each day to open our hearts to Christ's gifts. We can share quiet moments with Christ—simply enjoying his presence. We can draw upon Christ's energy to help the needy, worship with others or bake Christmas cookies. This Advent season let's wait *with* Christ, letting happy feelings grow.

CATHERINE A. WELCH | *Southbury, CT*

Jesus, help me grow in your love, joy and hope. Amen.

PRAY: Find a prayer that helps bring you closer to Christ during quiet and busy moments.

READ: Acts 17:26-28; 2 Timothy 2:1

TUESDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Openness to Divine Will

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.” ✱ LUKE 1:35

At first, Mary could not imagine how the angel’s proclamation that she would bear a son would be fulfilled. Yet, when the angel assured her of the power of God’s Spirit, Mary responded with faith in God’s trustworthiness as well as an openness to his divine will.

Sooner or later we all experience moments of doubt and times when we question how some perplexing situation will be resolved. There are no easy explanations for the sometimes wonderful, or sometimes painful events of our lives. Like Mary, we are invited to make room in our hearts for the will of God. In these days of Advent, we are challenged to let go of our natural desire to know everything completely, entrusting ourselves and our loved ones instead to the plan of God which is fully known only to him.

TERRI MIFEK | Bloomington, MN

Lord, may we trust that your Spirit continues to bring new creation out of chaos or uncertainty. Amen.

REFLECT: Is there a situation in your own life where God might be inviting you to “open up” to his leading?

READ: Luke 1:26-38

WEDNESDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

An Advent Acronym



Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

✱ REVELATION 22:20

Stepping into Advent, why not try an acronym?

Adore Jesus, who once came in Bethlehem and now comes in Word and Sacrament, and will come again at the end of time.

Do offer privately an Advent prayer as you wait patiently in the doctor's office.

Venture out and visit a homebound neighbor or a resident in a care center.

Enter God's house frequently, if able, during the Advent season.

Note carefully that Advent is a time to ponder prophecies in the Old Testament.

Take time to encourage family and friends to pray the Advent prayer: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! Come.

WALTER M. SCHOEDEL | *Webster Groves, MO*

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help us journey through the Advent season wrapped around the message of Advent. Amen.

WRITE: Write your own Advent acronym as you light your Advent candles.

READ: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

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Our lives should be full of peace, even in our later years. The daily devotions for older adults in this **LARGE PRINT** special edition highlight the message of having peace in the Lord always. The readings for each day of Advent help seniors reflect on the spiritual experiences of Advents gone by and encourage them to faithfully share with younger generations the reason for our peace, who is Jesus. This rich and enlightening collection of Advent devotions reflects the wisdom and life experience of its various authors. Enjoy a fresh perspective each day.

This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on [amazonkindle](#) and [nook](#)

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