



a
SEASON
— OF —
PEACE

Advent Devotions
for Seniors



The wolf shall live
with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie
down with the kid,
the calf and the lion
and the fatling together,
and a little child
shall lead them.

ISAIAH 11:6

Introduction

Seek peace, and pursue it. * PSALM 34:14

The season of Advent arrives at what some would consider the busiest time of the year. Yet Scripture tells us to seek and pursue peace. These Advent devotions written by seniors for seniors help to provide a moment of quiet reflection and contemplation on the coming of Christ into the world at Christmas, even in these hectic days and at this unique stage in life.

No matter what we may have on our schedules in these weeks of Advent, it is our calling, too, to bring the peace of Christ to others through loving words and acts of kindness. Inspired by the Child of Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace, who leads us, we are drawn to live in unity with our God and with one another, of every generation.

So find peace on these pages. Discover comfort in the prayers. And be filled with rest in the words of Scripture that proclaim, “Peace, peace, to the far and near” (Isaiah 57:19). Our Lord has come for us all. Let us rejoice.

MARK ZIMMERMANN, *editor*

SUNDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Advent Is About Him

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory ... * JOHN 1:14*

What an affirming season Advent is for us as God's people! Just think: Our God came down to earth to live in and through us in order for us to share the love and joy and forgiveness that his birth, death and resurrection have given to each of us as a gift. And he did this by living, dying and rising from the grave. What a Lord, and what a life he has given to us to live!

Advent reminds us not only of his coming, but also that he came for **ALL** of us, that he gifts us with **DEEDS** to do as we share his **VICTORY** with others, that Advent is the time to celebrate his coming now and also his coming to us as our **EASTER** Lord, that **NOW** is the time to celebrate not only his birth but also his death and resurrection. And finally, as we complete our acronym of **A-D-V-E-N-T**, what better word to use than **THANKS**. **RICH BIMLER** | *Bloomington, IL*

*Thank you, dear Lord, for coming among us
to be with us and in us. Amen.*

SHARE: Share with others what each letter of the word *Advent* means to you, and ask them to share as well.

READ: John 1:1-14; Psalm 105:1-6

MONDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

God With Us



“They shall name him Emmanuel,” which means God with us. ✨ MATTHEW 1:23

Do you know what your first name means? The name of Jesus is a special and distinct name. Jesus is called Emmanuel because he is with us. The greatness of Christmas is that Jesus came to us as a baby, then as a twelve-year-old boy lost in Jerusalem, then as a preacher and healer, and finally as a condemned person sent to the cross on Good Friday. Jesus is the sign that God keeps his promises, that he will be with us, and that he will deliver us from sin and death. Jesus is called Emmanuel because he is with us in every moment of our lives. Jesus is with you when seeing your doctor, when you are waiting for test results, and when helping your grandchildren. Knowing that Jesus is with us gives us peace, joy and contentment as seniors in God’s kingdom.

DAVID BEVER | Las Vegas, NV

Jesus, thank you for always being at my side. Amen.

FIND OUT: Find out what your name means so that you can thank God for the gift of your name.

READ: Matthew 1:18-25

TUESDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Perfect Peace

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. * ISAIAH 26:3 (ESV)

What troubles your heart this Advent season? Worries about health, housing, finances, broken friendships, family conflicts, spiritual doubts? Confusion about what is happening in your local community, nation and world?

Isaiah brings incredible assurance to our troubled hearts when he proclaims to God: “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you.” Isaiah also points us directly to the coming Messiah: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given ... and his name shall be called ... Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6, ESV). Perfect peace comes only through Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection. With minds staying on Jesus each day, we can join with aging Simeon in the temple in saying: “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation” (Luke 2:29-30, ESV). Perfect peace indeed!

STEPHEN J. CARTER | *Oakville, MO*

Jesus, keep our minds stayed on you today. Amen.

NAME: Name your troubles today and receive perfect peace in Jesus.

READ: Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:25-32

WEDNESDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Your Daily Advent



Prepare the way of the Lord ... * MATTHEW 3:3

In this season when we want to remember God's greatest Gift—his Son, our Brother—this precious Gift is in danger of getting lost amid all the trimmings. Trimmings themselves can be good as we use them to point us to the true Gift. Lights and candles remind us of the Light of the World. Round ornaments tell us of the circle of God's unending love. The constant green of the evergreen tree reminds us that God's love and forgiveness do not fade away. But let these be reminders, not distractions. The Holy Spirit enables us to cut through the trimmings, to hold the real Gift close and praise the Giver.

The realization that God the Giver loves us so much that he sent his Son for our salvation, is our daily Advent. Accept this Advent QUIETLY, as the snow falls on busy streets, GENTLY, as Mary lifts the Baby close to her, JOYFULLY, as angels sing on high, and EAGERLY, as the shepherds run to tell the precious news.

CONNIE BRETSCHER | *Valparaiso, IN*

Thank you, dear Lord, for opening my eyes to your love, forgiveness and joy every day of Advent. Amen.

LOOK: Look for signs of Advent all around you.

READ: Matthew 3:3-6, 11-12

Pause and Question

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ✱ MATTHEW 7:24

As we go through December, it can often feel like Advent gets lost in the mix. Consumed with the joys of buying and giving gifts, family gatherings and favorite holiday music and movies, it's easy to lose sight of Advent as a gift the Church gives us as a time of preparation, prayer and expectation for Christ.

So it's good to pause daily and ask ourselves questions like: On what have we built our lives? How do we spend our time, talent and treasure? Are we listening to the voices on the television telling us what to buy, or are we quieting ourselves so we can hear the gentle voice of God beckoning us toward the manger and the Word of God made flesh to dwell among us? Our inner well-being and peace rely on the answers to those questions.

STEVE GIVENS | *St. Louis, MO*

*God, be my rock and my foundation.
Be the focus of my December. Amen.*

TODAY: Set a schedule of prayer for every day between now and Christmas (and beyond).

READ: Isaiah 26:3-4; 1 Kings 19:11-12; John 1:9-14

FRIDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

The Power of Yes



Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” * MATTHEW 9:28

The two men Jesus encountered were blind. They had nothing to lose in saying they believed he could restore their sight. What was the worst that would happen? They would say yes, and nothing would change.

As they learned, something always changes when we say yes to Jesus. Sometimes what happens is exactly what we want, right here, right now. Other times, we wait. The change may be less obvious, deepening our trust and reliance on him. As hard as following Jesus may be, it always works out better than relying on the world and ourselves to solve our problems.

The word *yes*—it’s a simple word. But saying it, regardless of the season or the reason, opens our souls to the only peace that lasts.

MELANIE RIGNEY | *Arlington, VA*

Jesus, help me to be trust-filled and fearless in saying yes to what you ask of me today. Amen.

SEARCH: Identify a place in your life where you are reluctant to turn over the situation to the Lord. Journal about what is holding you back.

READ: Proverbs 3:5-6; 1 Peter 1:21

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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.

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