



*A book of Advent
scriptures and prayers*

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At the time of year when the days grow shorter and the night grows darker, we pause to remember when the Light of the world came to dwell among us.

The word “advent” comes from the Latin word for “arrival.” This is where we get our word “adventure,” which is one arrival after another. This season is called Advent because it is the time when we anticipate the arrival of Christ.

We do this by looking forward to the day when he will return to make all things new, when he will finally dispel the darkness with his glorious eternal light. And we also do this by looking back to the day of his first arrival, as a vulnerable baby, born among farm animals and laid in a manger.

His first arrival reshapes our expectations. It was a quiet and humble arrival. Today he arrives among us the same way, quietly and humbly—not in the ways we would expect.

Throughout this Advent season, we will be dwelling in the opening words from the Gospel of John. This may seem like a strange place to be, since John does not tell the story of Jesus’ birth, but he does tell the larger story. The story of the Word become flesh, the Light of the world, the Glory of God.

This is the story that we are still living in now as we listen for the Word, watch for the Light, and anticipate the Glory of God’s coming Kingdom.



*“In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.”*

John 1:1

WEEK 1: WORD

What if those first words of creation were not spoken in that booming voice we always imagine but were instead a whisper? After all, isn't that how the word came into the world at the culmination of Advent? In the still of the night; in the quiet darkness; the whole world unaware except for a handful of shepherds and a few astrologers.

There are two things that are clear throughout the scriptures:

First, that God is always speaking. Interrupting that silent void of the beginning; the call of Abraham; the cloud atop Sinai; the cries of his prophets; his very own first cries as a babe in that manger. His sermon on the mount; his well-crafted parables; his pleas in Gethsemane; his final shout from the cross. The wind of the Spirit; the letters from apostles; homilies from pulpits; daily lives of the saints. God is always speaking.

Second, that God never speaks in the ways we expect. Footsteps in a garden; stars in the heavens; an all-burning but never-consumed bush; a low whisper to Elijah; and then a baby born to an unwed mother from an unknown town without a home or even a roof over his head. There was no royal or nationwide proclamation, only a choir performance for shepherds. The Jewish people were expecting a warrior who would destroy the nations that had oppressed them; a king who would restore the kingdom of Israel. But, their messiah came as a homeless prophet who was himself destroyed by the nations. No one could have known or expected it. It even took his own disciples some time before they could connect the dots. Yet this was his advent.

What of today or of his second coming? We can be sure that he speaks and that he will come again. But what if it is not the way that we suppose? What if his voice does not sound like church services and tidy theologies? What if the coming of his kingdom does not sound like waiting for a trumpet blast and a whisking away to heaven, but rather the slow yet active spread of his love from one person to another until his will is finally done on earth as it is in heaven?

God is always speaking, but never in the way we expect. Are you listening?

Sunday, December 1

SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

—John 1:1-3

PRAYER

O Lord Christ,
In the beginning, you were the word;
At the call of Abraham, you were the word;
At the burning bush, you were the word;
At the exodus from Egypt, you were the word;
At the anointing of David, you were the word;
In the mouth of the prophets, you were the word;
As you lived upon the earth, you were the word;
As you hung upon the cross, you were the word;
As the Spirit filled your followers, you were the word;
Through the ages of the church, you were the word;
When you come to make all things new, you will be the word;
Today, as we await your return, you are the word.
Come, Lord Jesus, come!
Amen.

—Drew Dixon

Monday, December 2

SCRIPTURE

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
Praise the Lord with the harp;
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully, and shout for joy.

For the word of the Lord is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.
The Lord loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;
he puts the deep into storehouses.
Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the people of the world revere him.
For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

—Psalm 33:1-9

PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for your kindness in what you have created.
And we praise you for Jesus, who not only made what we can
see, but also gives us hope for what we cannot see as we
remember His coming in Advent. Amen.

—Bill Adornetto

Tuesday, December 3

SCRIPTURE

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

—Hebrews 1:1-3

PRAYER

Thank you for sending us the gift of your Son Jesus Christ. In him we can see you for who you truly are, the Word made flesh, being an exact representation of your being. Please help us to know you better, and to model our lives after your Son, who once humbled himself and now sits in Majesty. May we remember this as we celebrate the incarnation and birth of your Son this Christmastime. Amen.

—Aaron Gardner

Wednesday, December 4

SCRIPTURE

The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

—1 Kings 19:11-12

PRAYER

Oh God,

Sometimes the world, my pain, and the inability to see the way ahead shout so loudly and insistently that I cannot hear you at all.

Have mercy on me, O Shepherd.

Teach your sheep to hear your voice above all the noise and chaos of this life.

You are always calling us to your side, and your voice is gentle and kind.

Still our anxious hearts and bodies long enough for us to hear your Whisper, and to run towards you with our yes.

—Katelyn Dixon

Thursday, December 5

SCRIPTURE

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

—John 10:14-15, 27-30

PRAYER

Jesus our Shepherd:

Gather us together

Guard us from the Evil One

Give us food and shelter

Grant us the favor of your presence

Gift us with obedience

Grace will follow, Gracious Savior, Amen.

—Terri Wolfe

Friday, December 6

SCRIPTURE

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.

Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.

This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever.

—Isaiah 55:10-13

PRAYER

Lord, creator of time and purpose, whose words spoke us into existence, we honor you. Let your words fall like gentle rain on our souls; nourish us and rejuvenate our hopes. Just as Christ was wrapped in a blanket at birth, may we be wrapped by your blanket of solace like new snow on a winter morning. Cover our anxieties as we are sheltered in your promises. As we celebrate Christ's birth and are filled by your love, we celebrate how Christ is the most precious blessing to have ever entered our world.

—Sandra Adornetto

Saturday, December 7

Use this day and these pages to reflect on the past week and write a prayer of your own.



“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

(John 1:5)

WEEK 2: LIGHT

When God spoke light into being, I wonder if it appeared as a cataclysmic burst, or as a soft candle-like flicker. Most fires don't begin at blaze, but rather as a small spark. Perhaps the light of creation began the same way, just as the light of the world was kindled in the backwoods of Bethlehem.

The scripture acknowledges our darkness when it says that the light was for mankind. We are the ones in need of warmth in the cold dark of night. And, though God “dwells in unapproachable light unseen” (1 Tim 6:16), he has approached us with the humble light and warmth of a candle. God does not overwhelm us with a blaze of glory but rather invites us with the flicker of hope. This is why our Advent candles are only lit one at a time—the light of God comes slowly as we wait with patience and watchful hearts.

But we mustn't mistake the softness of candlelight for weakness. For, “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

This reminds me of the part of story that we tell this time of year where the wise men embark after a star. There is a subversive irony in following a star that offers us the comfort of hope while calling us to the risk of faith.

Stars are persistent. Always, they unassumingly hang in the heavens. We obscure them with city lights and ignore them with faces turned downward, yet they quietly twinkle on. The persistent presence of the stars reminds of the reality of hope. No matter how dark it may seem or how distracted we may become, hope flickers on, waiting for us to pause and glimpse it.

Then comes the risk. The irony of following a star is that it can only be seen in the darkness. The wise men had to embark on their journey in the vulnerability of night. Faith is just as vulnerable a journey, taken not in the familiarity and security of daylight, but rather confronting darkness with the light of Christ. Faith calls us to face the darkness of the night around us and also the darkness within our own hearts.

The light of Christ, quiet and constant, is enough to dispel both.

Sunday, December 8

SCRIPTURE

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

—John 1:9-12

PRAYER

O Lord, we confess that when the True Light comes into the world, we do not recognize you. Instead, our eyes are turned toward the light of televisions and smartphones or ogling at the spectacle of the spotlight. Help us to turn away from the flashy lights of this world and toward the True Light of the world that we might receive you, believe in you, and become your children.

—Drew Dixon

Monday, December 9

SCRIPTURE

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

—*Psalm 139:7-12*

PRAYER

Lord God,

Your presence has always lightened my darkness.

Though I am afraid, help me to discover treasures only to be found in the dark.

Grant me night vision and the courage to seek your face, even when I cannot see two feet in front of me.

Your eyes are the searchlights which seek and find what is lost.

Although I am running blind,

Lord God,

find me.

—*Katelyn Dixon*

Tuesday, December 10

SCRIPTURE

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

—Isaiah 9:2-3

PRAYER

Dearest Lord, thank you for sending your light. From the shining star above the stable in Jerusalem to the bright streets of gold we shall walk one day, your light has always been a powerful force, giving hope to your children living in a broken world. As we use this season to faithfully remember the coming of your son, help us also to remember that we are called to be the light of the world, spreading your love to the darkest ends of the earth. Shine your radiant face upon us, o Lord, in this season and forevermore. Amen.

—Amanda Vaughn

Wednesday, December 11

SCRIPTURE

And you, my child, will be called
a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord
to prepare the way for him,
to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.

—Luke 1:76-79

PRAYER

Lord you are merciful and you shine brighter than any sun in the universe. You have given us the light to drive away the darkness. Help us to step out of the umbra and into your glorious light. Often we feel comfortable staying in the shadows where we can hide our transgressions, but the shadows are death and destruction. Forgive us our transgressions and help us to know that your light is the light of forgiveness and life, where we will dwell in peace and harmony with you forever. Amen.

—Randall Calvert

Thursday, December 12

SCRIPTURE

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

—*John 8:12*

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for coming for us. For searching us out, for rescuing us from the darkness.

We ask that you spread your light into the dark places of the world. The places that still wait for your light to penetrate. The places of the suffering and sick, the lonely and forgotten. Use us, your children, to be light in those dark places. Allow us to see the miracle of your birth in the lives of those around us time and time again as your light draws the lost to you.

Be born anew in us each day as we learn to walk in the security of your love. You make our paths straight and our steps sure. You light our way. You give our lives meaning and hope. You are light, life and truth.

In the Name of Christ our savior we offer this prayer. Amen.

—*Kelly Rollins*

Friday, December 13

SCRIPTURE

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

—*Matthew 5:14-16*

PRAYER

Your light guides me and gives me a bright place to focus in the midst of my darkness. Thank you for never dimming. Please work within my darkness to be your light to all those around me who desperately need it. Amen.

—*Matthew Stevens*

Saturday, December 14

Use this day and these pages to reflect on the past week and write a prayer of your own.



*“The Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us.”*

(John 1:14)

WEEK 3: FLESH

Knee pads, thigh pads, hip pads, rear pads, great big shoulder pads, and a helmet with a face mask all give football players their signature look. All of this must be put on before they even set foot on the field. More than half a millennium before, a knight had more than twenty pieces of armor to assemble before heading out to a jousting tournament or embarking on a quest. And before the plated armor of a knight there was the protection of chain mail, before chain mail there were strong animal skins, and before animal skins there was Adam and Eve frantically grasping at fig leaves.

Whether it is hiding in shame, conquering an enemy in battle, or winning a game—humanity has a long history of covering themselves up. But when God came to earth on a mission to conquer sin and establish his kingdom he did not suit up with helmet and armor, he did not roll in on a battle tank. Rather, he took on flesh. Flesh that was vulnerable to cold and wet, vulnerable to scrapes and bruises, vulnerable to the nails of a Roman cross. When humans seek victory, we've usually done so with sword and shield, but God does it with skin.

The Word became flesh so that he could touch the eyes of the blind and lay hands upon the lepers. The Word became flesh so that he could weep tears with Mary at the death of Lazarus. The Word became flesh so that he could smell the perfume that the woman anointed him with. The Word became flesh so that he could taste the bread that he broke with his disciples. The Word became flesh so that he could be pierced for our transgressions, so that by his wounds we could be healed.

Recent studies have shown that physical touch is essential to human flourishing, suggesting that we need eight to ten touches a day to maintain physical and emotional health. But anyone looking at the ministry of Jesus would know this already. He established the kingdom of God not by indestructible armor but by vulnerable flesh, not by the strength of sword but by the softness of skin.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He dwells with us still.

Sunday, December 15

SCRIPTURE

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

—John 1:14

PRAYER

O Lord, words are a wonderful gift! By them we gain information, communicate thoughts, and express emotion. But there are so many things that cannot be put into words. Things that can only be said with the body language of smiling eyes or a warm embrace. And so where words fall short, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. You are the God who speaks every language—even body language. As we remember the days when you took on flesh, may we glimpse the kindness of your smile and feel the warmth of your touch. Amen.

—Drew Dixon

Monday, December 16

SCRIPTURE

But now, this is what the Lord says—
 he who created you, Jacob,
 he who formed you, Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters,
 I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
 they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
 you will not be burned;
 the flames will not set you ablaze.
For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

—Isaiah 43:1-3

PRAYER

Oh Lord and Creator. In the days of old when You made these promises to the Israelites, they were a people who were robbed, plundered, trapped in holes, hidden in prisons. They were taken advantage of, had injustices done to them, and were alone. But You promised You would be with them; they would not be overwhelmed and they would not be burned or consumed.

We are now in a season of Advent. A time meant to reflect and celebrate the birth of Christ while looking in expectation to His return! And yet, O Lord, in the recesses of my mind I hear a whisper that You are not just waiting. You are still at work among Your creation until The Return. There is still robbing,

(continued on next page)

plundering trapping, the confinement of prison, injustice and loneliness. There are people who don't know you, their loving Creator, Protector, Savior.

As Christians today you have blessed us with the example of Jesus and what it meant to love, show grace, mercy and justice on this Earth like He did. You have also given us the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us in our walk on this Earth. And all of this for Your glory.

We do long and yearn with the expectation of Christ's return, where all will be made whole, and where we truly experience your unimaginable love and joy! Let us also remember and watch for where and how You want to use us as Your vessels on this Earth for Your glory until then. Help us to be your hands, ears, and love to others. Help us to see when we need to walk with others through the waters of their world and to let them know they are not alone so they may see You. Show us where You would have us help where life's "flames" are encountered by others. May we be vigilant to be Your reflection today while we simultaneously reflect and celebrate the birth of Christ and the glory of His return.

Amen.

—*Andrea Calvert*

Tuesday, December 17

SCRIPTURE

In your relationships with one another,
have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

—Philippians 2:5-8

PRAYER

One of my favorite songs that we sing at church is "More Like You" by Scott Wesley Brown. It's not a holiday song but the lyrics remind us to strive to be more like Him. To walk as He walked and to shine His light. With God's guidance, we can be an example to this world and show God's grace and love for all.

"More like You, Jesus--
Draw me in Your presence
Lead me in Your ways".

—Alina Roth

Wednesday, December 18

SCRIPTURE

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

—*Hebrews 4:14-16*

PRAYER

O God,
In my weakness, I know you are there.
In my sickness, I know you are there.
In my death, I know you are there.

Like you, I have been tempted.
Tempted to take more than I give.
Tempted to choose hate over love.
Tempted to pursue comfort over justice.
Tempted to love money. Or power. Or myself. Over you.

Lord, in your temptations, you proved faithful.
In my temptations, you remain faithful.

Help us to remember we have a high priest who understands.
And a God who forgives.
And grace that overflows.

Amen.

—*Jimmy McCarty*

Thursday, December 19

SCRIPTURE

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

—Matthew 28:18-20

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us: befriending sinners, healing the sick, proclaiming the Kingdom. Then that flesh was pierced as you hung on the cross. But on the third day, your tomb was empty! You are risen! And now you have given us this word of good news to share and this promise to continue dwelling with us “to the very end of the age.” So, may the word of your Kingdom be on our lips and the dwelling of your Spirit be in our hearts as we proclaim your good news to all! Amen.

—Drew Dixon

Friday, December 20

SCRIPTURE

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

—*Revelation 21:1-5*

PRAYER

O God live with us
Be Emmanuel to us
Let Death die – tears pass

—*Jerry Wolfe*

Saturday, December 21

Use this day and this page to reflect on the past week and write a prayer of your own.



*“We have seen his glory,
the glory of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father,
full of grace and truth.”*

(John 1:14)

WEEK 4: GLORY

The singer holds out the long final note while standing in the spotlight on stage and then the audience erupts in applause as they stand to their feet. In the last few seconds of the game the player scores a hard-fought touchdown and the crowd goes wild. This is glory as we imagine it. Loud notes, bright lights, and a stage.

But as we've reflected on Jesus' birth, we see only a small child born in an obscure stable with no audience but his parents, some farm animals, and some shepherds who probably smelled like farm animals. Instead of a booming voice, the Word entered the world with the cries of a baby. Instead of a bright flash, the Light entered the world in the darkness of night. And instead of a majestic stage, God became flesh amidst a messy barn.

There is nothing dazzling or impressive about this at all. But then John describes all of this—this quiet, dim, and messy scene—as Glory. "We have seen his glory!"

The story of Advent upends all of our assumptions and unveils the heavens, but not in the way that we expect. Rather than a spectacle, heaven is found in the most ordinary and unexpected places. The cry of your child. The homeless beggar. The hungry elementary student. The monotony of each day. All of these are occasions for Glory if only we pay attention.

As we listen for the Word and look for the Light, we are transformed into the Flesh—the very body of Christ. And all of this is Glory. Glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father. The grace of God leads us into the truth of God, and this is how the world is transformed. From the cradle to the cross to the community of Christ. It is obscure. It is unexpected. It is ordinary. And it is glorious—full of grace and truth.

Sunday, December 22

SCRIPTURE

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—*John 1:14*

PRAYER

We have seen his glory!

—but he was born in a barn.

Yes, we have seen his glory!

—but he was the friend of sinners.

Yes, we have seen his glory!

—but he had no place to lay his head.

Yes, we have seen his glory!

—but he bent down to wash their feet.

Yes, we have seen his glory!

—but he was killed on a cross!

Yes, this was most glorious of all!

What kind of glory is this?

It is the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

O Lord, fill us with this kind of glory. Cover us in your grace and guide us in your truth. Amen.

—*Drew Dixon*

Monday, December 23

SCRIPTURE

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.

—*Isaiah 6:3*

PRAYER

El Elyon *God Most High*

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty,
all the Earth sings of your Glory.

Attiyq Youm *Ancient of Days*

Galaxies shine your Magnificence.

The Universe expounds your Grandeur.

Our response can only be humility. You are God, we are not.

Elohim *Creator*

Humbling Yourself as a Baby,

You taught us the joy of humility, the freedom of believing the
impossible, the Love of **Abba** Father.

El Roi *God Who Sees*

Walking the Earth as a Man.

You showed us faith, strength, courage, tolerance, how to love.

Yahweh-Rapha *Lord That Healeth*

Sacrificing Yourself as God,

You fulfilled ancient promises, broke open future chains,
conquered evil eternally and set Hope free.

Yahweh-Yireh *LORD Will Provide*

Sharing Yourself as Spirit,

You inspire and guide us, infusing understanding and peace.

El Shaddai *God Almighty*

We adore You.

—*Mary Sankaran*

Tuesday, December 24

SCRIPTURE

Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?
The Lord Almighty—
he is the King of glory.

—*Psalm 24:7-10*

PRAYER

As we seek You, God of Jacob, Lift our countenance
and Open our hearts To the King of Glory.

As we seek You, God of Jacob, May we know that
The battle for our souls is already won.

As we seek You, God of Jacob Help us to see that Your
Strength and Might Are revealed in the humble
Birth of Jesus in a manger.

As we seek You, God of Jacob, Open our lives
To the King of Glory, Jesus Our Christ and Savior.

Amen.

—*Chris Cole*

Wednesday, December 25

SCRIPTURE

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.”

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.”

—*Luke 2:8-15*

PRAYER

Gloria in excelsis deo!
Joy unbounded!
God in His creation!
Salvation has come!
Amen!

—*Terri Wolfe*

Thursday, December 26

SCRIPTURE

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

—Isaiah 60:1-3

PRAYER

God of beauty, truth, and light,

You are the sun that rises upon us.

When you shine, we shine.

Make us into mirrors of your glory, reflecting light and truth
into places of darkness, suffering, and confusion.

Show us what it looks like to love, dance, and sing freely under
the brightness of your countenance, which is always turned
towards us in love.

—Katelyn Dixon

Friday, December 27

SCRIPTURE

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom
and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

“Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counselor?”

“Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?”

For from him and through him and for him
are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

—*Romans 11:33-36*

PRAYER

The wisdom of God is
a baby born in the backwoods of Bethlehem.

The wisdom of God is
the soft light of a humble life.

The wisdom of God is
vulnerable flesh and death on a cross.

Grant us this unsearchable, untraceable wisdom, O God,
that we may join with the angels singing,

Peace to people on the earth
and Glory to God in heaven!

Amen.

—*Drew Dixon*

Saturday, December 28

Use this day and these pages to reflect on the past month and write a prayer of your own.



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