

Advent 2022 | Series

While We Wait

Week Three : God Speaks

Fully Engaged.
Fully Immersed.

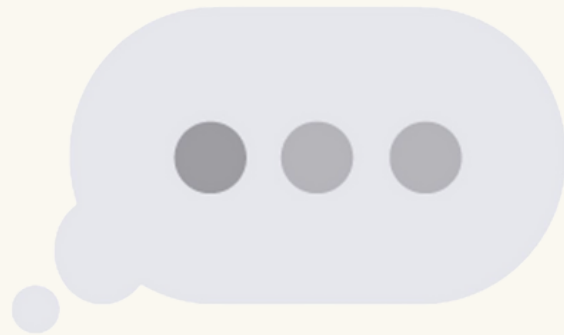
Introduction

| Week Three: Breaking the Silence

Finally.

God has spoken.

They thought the waiting would never end. Finally, the Lord declared his glory over the whole earth by sending the long awaited Messiah. The night sky burst with light as angels descended upon some lowly shepherds in a quiet field in the middle of nowhere to announce the birth of the Messiah.



“Come and see” the angels say.

A year or so prior, God had already spoken. Quietly, to a few no-name people. He told them what was going to happen and he asked them for help in bringing about the fulfillment of his promise of a Messiah. Quietly, these people, even in the midst of fear and confusion and the “Why me?” questions, said, “Yes I will help, I will be part of this”. Quietly, the trajectory of their lives changed as they held space for what God was going to do, even making space in their womb for the Messiah to grow into a tiny human being.

Quietly... slowly... and even strategically...

God orchestrated all the details - the time, place, people and means by which he would arrive.

Don't hold your breath. Nothing glaringly spectacular here. Probably the loudest God got was when the angels announced his arrival to the shepherds. Otherwise, it was ordinary people and normal life that ushered in the kingdom of God.

And so it began. A new life with God. A new Way. The old became new. And we're all invited. Isn't it just like God to prefer quiet and slow over thunderous and fast tracking. Because transformation is a slow and deep work. It requires time and energy, attention and intention, humility and surrender. None of this can happen quickly.

So here we are again waiting. "Why isn't God speaking?", we ask. "Why doesn't he fix this mess we are living in?"

Hang on...

What if God is also waiting?

What if God's silence is not absence, but actually his mercy?

What if this waiting is providing us an opportunity to dig ourselves out of the mess we made?

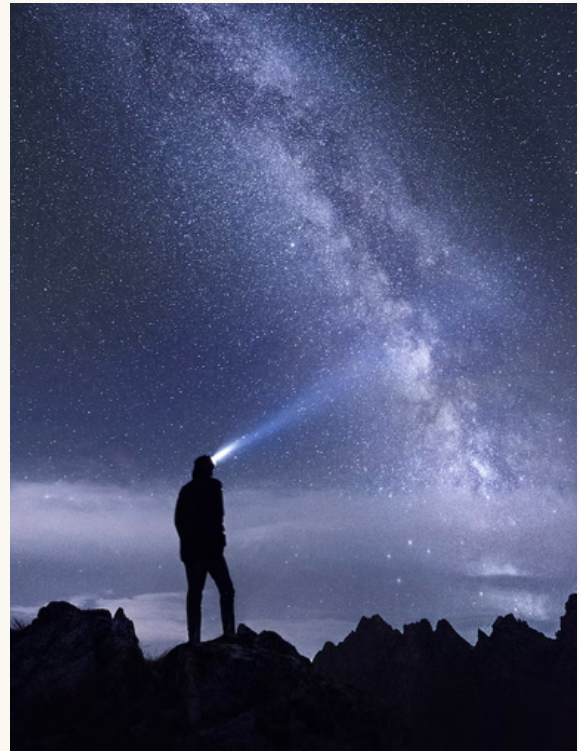
As much as we love to blame God for what is happening in the world, it's us who did this. And yes, we do need a Saviour to rescue us. This is far too big and overwhelming for us to solve.

As we cry out to God for help, perhaps his mercy is found in our waiting - the place where trust is grown, faith is produced, resilience is built and a listening ear is developed.

This week... let's spend some time listening - to God and to one another. Perhaps he is speaking, we just can't hear him over the din of our lives.

*"Let's go (to Bethlehem) and see this thing that has happened,
which the Lord has told us about."*

Luke 2:15



Preparation

**Preparation requires a bit of time,
but it is well worth the effort.**



As you prepare for the week, once again make sure to look over the Daily & Weekly Rhythms section listed in this week's devotional series in order to help you get organized for the week. The various symbols, readings and activities help us to pay attention, looking for signs of God's presence in our world and for opportunities to join him in his work. Over time, we become more attuned to the work of the Spirit and are able to recognize him more quickly and intuitively.

- Candles** Light the first, second, and third advent candle.
- Heart** What needs to be done in your heart and soul in preparation for the the arrival of Jesus?
- Playlist** Download the Week #3 Advent Playlist - SPEAK!
- Plans** Check out the resources and events offered around your neighbourhood and city.
- Home** What needs to be done around your home in preparation for the coming King? Is there food or baking to be done? Gifts to be purchased or made?

Weekly Playlist

Here is this week's playlist, "SPEAK!". Download and listen. Use this music to help you lean into your time with the Lord or to quiet your soul and aid with your reflection work. *For the longer Advent Series playlist, go to the Series Introduction email.*

SPOTIFY



APPLE
MUSIC



Scan the QR
codes with phone
camera or click!

Weekly Practices

Strength | Caring for the Earth

- Look for opportunities to support more sustainable living and reducing waste.
- Think about carrying your own reusable beverage holder to use when ordering take-out drinks. If you need to use a disposable cup, make sure you drop it in the correct waste container for recycling. (Think... next generation!)

Strength | Caring for our Body *MOVEMENT!*

Keeping our bodies moving is important for overall health. If you are thinking that this means a daily 5 km run or bench pressing your weight, think again. Movement should match your fitness level and can be as easy as a 10 minute body stretch or walking around your house while on a call. Start small and slowly build up your stamina. A walk around your neighbourhood is especially good. The fresh air also helps with mental health. Movement provides benefits to your muscles, bones, joints, heart, lungs and brain. A little bit of movement is better than none so find something you love to do and make it happen!

Strength | Sabbath

- Recognizing the importance of placing God in the centre of all we do, make sure to include Sabbath in your weekly rhythms.
- Prepare your heart and your home ahead of time so when Sabbath comes you are freed up to rest, remember and feast.
- Make room to gather for worship and to participate in something life giving on this day.

One Another | The Practice of Listening

Listening is difficult. Probably more difficult now than ever before because of all the distraction around us. Being present to others is one of the greatest gifts you can give to them. Being heard by another validates who we are. It affirms we have worth in this world. When we are with others, let's give them the dignity of our attention. Put away your phone, look them in the eye and see where the Lord takes you as you enter into their story and their life. Here are a couple of ways you can practice listening: (next page)

- Bless 2 people this week by listening to them - one whom you know and one whom you don't know. Ask a question about themselves or their day, listen attentively and find a way to encourage and bless them. Express gratitude for them.
- Pay attention to those around you. Take special care to pick up on things said in passing that might reveal a desire they have. When they least expect it, surprise them by fulfilling that desire. (Example: Someone mentions a favourite food or drink. Bring it to them as a gift.)



Neighbour | Let's Make This Fun!

Where is God at work in the world? Find out how you can join with him in bringing hope and healing. Who has God placed in your life that does not know Jesus? How can you love them better?

- **YOU'VE BEEN SOCKED!** Here is a fun activity you can bring to your whole neighbourhood.
- **KIDS:** Do this with your friends at school or in your neighbourhood. All you need is a small stocking and a few treats. [**Click here for instructions and printouts.**](#)
- Continue to walk through your neighbourhood, praying a blessing over your neighbours and listening for the Lord to reveal the needs and how can you meet these needs.

Fun Activities for Family & Friends



- **FOR ALL AGES!** In keeping with this week's Advent theme of God speaking, find ways to hear God's Word spoken through music, theatre, concerts, art. Consider looking into a Christmas concert or worship night in a local church. Perhaps organize an evening of carolling in your neighbourhood. Bring the whole family and invite a friend or two along. Check out your city website to see what is happening around you.
- **PAY ATTENTION!** Keep taking photos of your outings and where you see God at work. Invite your family, friends or church to do the same.
- **REFLECT:** How did the Holy Spirit guide your time with your family and friends? Where did you experience God at work in you and with you? In what ways did you hear God speak or did you speak God's word to others?

Sunday



The Third Advent

Today is our 3rd Advent Feast Day! Once again, **we celebrate** who God is by gathering together with one another, bringing our offering of worship to him. **We remember** what the Lord has done for us throughout the ages and offer our gratitude to him. **We rest...** from our work, our chores and our worry! Pay attention to your body and what it needs. Perhaps a nap is in order or maybe an activity is preferred. Today might be a day you spend quietly with the Lord. Or maybe doing something with someone else is more desirable. Whatever you do, make sure it is life-giving.

| Sabbath Reflection

Begin the day by lighting the 3rd Advent Candle.

Take a few moments to reflect on Isaiah 9:6 and Luke 2:11-12

- God finally speaks. The silence has been broken. What does this story of the arrival of Jesus the Messiah stir in you?
- What does reading the prophecy in Isaiah being fulfilled in the book of Luke tell us about God?
- What can you be thankful for today in response to the coming of the Messiah?

Take these insights and stirrings with you into worship today and into the week to come. End your time with the following prayer:

*May this day bring Sabbath rest to my heart and my home.
 May my peace and perspective be renewed in the busyness of this season
 May my hand be free enough from spending and acquiring to receive Your gift.
 May a little of the wonder and magic of Christmas awaken the child within me today.
 And may God's Word feed me and His Spirit lead me into the week and into the life to come.
 Amen*

(Sabbath Blessing by Pete Greig, Lectio 365 December 11, 2022)



Evening Prayers | Isaiah 9:6

As we come to the end of Sabbath, reflect back on the day, inviting the Holy Spirit to speak.. What stands out to you as the best part of the day? Why? What did you find challenging today? Why? As you look toward the upcoming week, what things are you excited about and what is weighing on you? Write about these things in your journal.

Enter into a time of meditation on Isaiah 9:6:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Out of all the names of Jesus written in this scripture verse, which one resonates most with you? What do you think the Lord might be offering you this evening? As you enter into this third week of Advent, keep this particular name of Jesus close to you, reminding yourself each day that he is offering this part of himself to you.

End your time by praying the lyrics to this song written by Steve Bell:

*Even so Lord Jesus come
O divine and glorious Son
Though we live as Your body here on earth
Even, Lord Jesus come*

*Gracious Father, Sovereign Lord
Your creation's one adored
By your hand, we receive Your majesty
Even so, Lord Jesus come*

*Holy Spirit, breath of life
Light a path through darkest night
In Your care, we confess our deepest sigh
Even so, Lord Jesus come*

Amen

(You can listen to this song at www.pilgrimyear.com/advent/songs Advent Chapter Ten)

Monday

Self-Check *Here is a quick self-check before entering into morning prayers:*

Heart

Where do your affections lie these days? Identify the things that compete with giving your attention to God? What do you need to let go of to place the Lord back in the centre of your life?

Soul

Where are you in need of the Holy Spirit's power? Do you need healing, rest or redemption this week? How will you take care of your soul?

Mind

Where is your thought life at? Do you find your mind leaning more negatively or positively? Do your thoughts produce life and joy or death and destruction? Will you bring this to the Lord and ask for healing?

Strength

How does the condition of your heart, soul and mind express itself through your strength? Take a look at how you care for your body, use your time and talents, care for the earth and steward your finances? These are good indicators of what's going on at a deeper level.



Morning Prayers | Psalm 31:7-8;19-20

Pray this Psalm each morning this week:

*I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love,
for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul.
You have not handed me over to my enemies but have set me in a safe place...
How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you.
You lavish it on those who come to you for protection,
blessing them before the watching world.
You hide them in the shelter of your presence, safe from those who conspire against them.
You shelter them in your presence, far from accusing tongues.*

Pray and ask the Lord to bless the day, to show you where He is at work and how you can join him. Ask God to help you listen well to others today. Pray that the Lord would use you today and to be his presence everywhere you go.

Listening Through the Reading of Scripture

This week we will focus in on the practice of listening. Today you are encouraged to divide the reading into two parts - morning and evening - as it is a heavy reading day. Even as today's reading is more a study of scripture, rather than meditative, we still want to listen for God's voice. This might require a slowing down and you may not even get through all the reading in one sitting. This is okay. Our goal is to hear from God, to receive and to learn. Enter into this study time by asking the Lord to speak to you.

Morning Reading | Christ Will Come

Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 1:18-23, Luke 1:5-38

- How do the New Testament texts connect with the Old Testament?
- Do you see the movement from Old Testament prophecy into the New Testament where the prophecy becomes more focused as God chooses particular people to speak to?

Evening Reading | Christ Has Come

Luke 1:57-66, Luke 2:8-15, Luke 2:22-32

After 400 years of silence, God speaks. Sit in this for a few minutes. Reflecting on all you have read today...

- What stands out to you most about God and the various people he worked through?
- Why do you think God waited so long to speak and to send the Messiah?
- Think about Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, and Simeon. Imagine what they must have been feeling when God spoke to them? Each of them had a unique experience hearing from God, what does that tell you about how God invites each one of us into his work in the world?
- Has God ever asked you to do something for which you felt completely ill-prepared and inadequate? How did you respond? What did you learn about God and yourself in the process?

Discuss this with a trusted friend or in a small group.



Evening Prayers | Examen

As we come to the end of the day, think about where you have experienced Jesus' presence, power and pleasure in your day. Record these in your journal.

- What was life giving today? What brought you joy?
- Were you able to practice loving others today? What did this look like?
- What was challenging today? Where did you go your own way today instead of following Jesus? Take time to ask forgiveness.
- Where did you see God at work?
- What do you need to surrender to him?

CLOSING PRAYER

*In this Advent season we long for You, we watch for You,
Come Lord Jesus and dwell among us.
While we wait, we pray for you to breathe new life into us.
Awaken our souls and open our eyes to see Your beauty everywhere.
As we lie down now to rest, we trust you to heal and restore us
And prepare us for another day with You.*

Amen

Tuesday

BIBLE VIDEO DAY!



Morning Prayers | Psalm 31:7-8, 19-20

Take a few moments now to pray this Psalm over your day.

*I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love,
for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul.
You have not handed me over to my enemies but have set me in a safe place...
How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you.
You lavish it on those who come to you for protection,
blessing them before the watching world.
You hide them in the shelter of your presence, safe from those who conspire against them.
You shelter them in your presence, far from accusing tongues.*

Pray and ask the Lord to bless the day, to show you where He is at work and how you can join him. Ask God to help you listen well to others today. Pray that the Lord would use you today and to be his presence everywhere you go.



Scripture | Bible Video

Today we get to “watch” the Bible passage! Scan or click the link. It is approximately 5 minutes in duration. Get out your pen and be ready to take notes on what stands out to you in the videos. Write down any questions you may have. Consider discussing this with a friend or in a small group.



Reflection

Take some time to go through the questions below and be ready to discuss them with your Mission Group.

1. How do Mary and Zachariah respond to the angel's shocking news? Note the differences in their follow-up questions to the angel. Which response would be more similar to how you would respond? (continue to next page)

2. Poet Malcolm Guite says that Mary's "yes" to God makes Christ's "yes" to us possible. What does that stir in you? How might our saying yes to God make an impact on others that we will likely never be aware of?
3. What is an impossible dream God has placed in your heart? What might he be calling and inviting you into?

Reflect on how God works through the ages and through all generations. What are some things going on in your life right now that God might be using to orchestrate events in the years to come? How does that make you feel?

Evening Prayers | Examen

As we come to the end of the day, look back and think about where you have experienced Jesus' presence, power and pleasure in your day. Record these in your journal.

- What was life giving today? What brought you joy?
- Were you able to practice loving others today? What did this look like?
- What was challenging today? Where did you go your own way today instead of following Jesus? Take time to ask forgiveness.
- Where did you see God at work?
- What do you need to surrender to him?

As our closing prayer, read the words to this old Advent Hymn written by Charles Wesley. This hymn was written in 1744. The words withstand the ages and we still sing them today.

CLOSING PRAYER

*Come, thou long expected Jesus
Born to set thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart*

Amen

Wednesday



Morning Prayers | Psalm 31:7-8;19-20

*I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love,
for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul.
You have not handed me over to my enemies but have set me in a safe place...
How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you.
You lavish it on those who come to you for protection,
blessing them before the watching world.
You hide them in the shelter of your presence, safe from those who conspire against them.
You shelter them in your presence, far from accusing tongues.*

Pray and ask the Lord to bless the day, to show you where He is at work and how you can join him. Ask God to help you listen well to others today. Pray that the Lord would use you today and to be his presence everywhere you go.

Christ Has Come and Christ Will Come Again

We live in the “now and not yet”. Jesus did indeed come and we know he is coming again. So what do we do in the meantime?

While We Wait

The “While We Wait” portion of our readings is intended to attach action to the scriptures texts. Rather than merely reflecting and absorbing the words, we are seeking to live these words out in real life. While we wait for Christ’s return, what is he asking of us? As we live among our neighbours, co-workers and friends, how can we participate in bringing God’s kingdom into our neighbourhoods and work places?



Listening Through Scripture | Lectio Divina

Read John 1:14, 1 John 1:1. Read slowly 2 - 3 times. (If possible, read in NIV, NLT and The Message translations). [Bible Gateway](#) is a great way to look up passages in multiple translations simultaneously. Take a look at the questions on the next page.

1. What words or phrases jumped out at you? Where did your imagination stop you?
2. Why do you think the Holy Spirit drew your attention to these words or phrases?
3. How do you think God might be guiding you into living out these texts?



Reflection

1. What comes to mind when you hear “the Word”?
2. What comes to mind when you hear “flesh and blood”? How are we flesh and blood to our neighbours?
3. What does “dwells among us” mean to you? How are you dwelling among and getting to know your neighbours?
4. How do the words “behold God’s glory” hit you? Where have you seen God’s glory and God at work in your neighbourhood? When we dwell in our neighbourhoods, we behold God’s glory! How does this sit with you? How does that change your interaction with those around you?
5. How do you embody the Word of God and the nature of his kingdom as you live out every day life?

Weekly Practices - God Speaks Through Us

Take another look at this week’s practices. While we wait:

1. What can you be doing to care for the earth?
2. Have you thought further about movement and how it affects your body? What practices are you putting in place to take care of your body? Consider doing a walking prayer for 10-15 minutes each day.
3. How have you been practicing listening this week?
4. What activities can you be doing in your neighbourhood, with your friends or co-workers? Don’t forget about the **“YOU’VE BEEN SOCKED!”** activity - a fun and easy way to bless your neighbours.
5. How will you bless two people this week?



Waiting Together

Is there something you can do with a group of people that will bless others? Consider serving in a ministry in your church that you don’t normally serve in. Perhaps there is a soup kitchen or other ministry that helps those in need.

*In this Advent season, we long for You, we watch for You.
 Come Lord Jesus and dwell among us.
 We wait for You to birth again, new life and eyes to see
 Your beauty, flesh and blood, right next door.
 Come Lord Jesus and sit beside us,
 Even as creation groans, we wait in hope
 Come Lord Jesus and walk with us.
 For You have gone before yet invite us to prepare the Way.
 You are at work in our midst and yet invite us to participate in it -
 The redemption of all things!
 Your kingdom is near, on our streets, in our communities -
 And yet, we dream of a new heaven and earth!
 Come Lord Jesus, let Your light and love guide and fill us
 that we might be like You today.*

Amen



Evening Prayers | Examen

CLOSING PRAYER

As we come to the end of the day think about where you have experienced Jesus' presence, power and pleasure in your day. Record these in your journal.

- What was life giving today? What brought you joy?
- Were you able to practice loving others today? What did this look like?
- What was challenging today? Where did you go your own way today instead of following Jesus? Take time to ask forgiveness.
- Where did you see God at work?
- What do you need to surrender to him?

*Circle our neighbourhoods, Lord
 Circle... (name specific people in your
 neighbourhood and life), Lord
 Keep hope near and hopelessness afar,
 Keep peace near and conflict afar,
 Keep health near and ill-health afar,
 Keep love near and loneliness afar,
 Circle us Lord with your grace and favour
 That Your shalom and goodness might flourish.
 Circle our neighbourhoods, Lord
 Let Your kingdom come
 That we might bear witness to
 Your glory in flesh,
 Right next door.*

Amen

Thursday



Morning Prayers | Psalm 31:7-8;19-20

*I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love,
for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul.
You have not handed me over to my enemies but have set me in a safe place...
How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you.
You lavish it on those who come to you for protection,
blessing them before the watching world.
You hide them in the shelter of your presence, safe from those who conspire against them.
You shelter them in your presence, far from accusing tongues.*

Pray and ask the Lord to bless the day, to show you where He is at work and how you can join him. Ask God to help you listen well to others today. Pray that the Lord would use you today and to be his presence everywhere you go.



Listening Through Scripture | Lectio Divina

Christ has come and will come again: Matthew 1:23, Revelation 3:20, 21:3-5

Slowly read through these texts 2 -3 times. (Again, use different translations if possible) Remember our posture is to listen and receive. What is the Lord saying to you through these texts? Is there a translation you prefer to read so you can better understand what the Lord might be saying to you? It's good to change things up!

1. What words or phrases jumped out at you? Where did your imagination stop you?
2. Why do you think the Holy Spirit drew your attention to these words or phrases?
3. How do you think God might be guiding you into living out these texts?



Reflection

1. Emmanuel - God with us. What does this mean to you? Are you living life in the truth that God is with you everywhere and all the time? What does life with God look like for you?
2. Looking forward to Christ's return and seeing what that looks like in Revelation 21:3-5, how can you bring glimpses of God's kingdom here and now? What would it look like to be with your neighbours as God is with you?

3. As we participate with God in bringing hope and redemption to this world, how will you embody the word of Jesus in all you do and whoever you are with?

Write down your thoughts and your questions. Take them with you throughout the day, paying attention to where you see God at work. Try to make the connection between what you have read and heard in scripture and how it is displayed in the world around you. What is God showing you?

Make a point of sharing this with a trusted friend.

Bonus Video - Optional

Scan the QR code
with phone
camera, or click!

THE WORD



Action

- **Ask the Lord** to speak to you today by bringing passages of scripture to mind and words of encouragement that you can hold onto today.

- **Look at today's news.**

Ask the Lord to highlight one headline that you can pray into. Ask him to give you a promise or verse from the Bible so you can pray his words over the situation.

- **Be intentional** about looking for ways to bless others today through listening, kindness, and hospitality. (As simple as saying hello or thank you with a smile to someone)

PRAY

*In this Advent season, we long for You, we watch for You.
Come Lord Jesus and dwell among us.
We wait for You to birth again, new life and eyes to see
Your beauty, flesh and blood, right next door.
Come Lord Jesus and sit beside us,
Even as creation groans, we wait in hope
Come Lord Jesus and walk with us.
For You have gone before yet invite us to prepare the Way.
You are at work in our midst and yet invite us to participate in it -
The redemption of all things!
Your kingdom is near, on our streets, in our communities -
And yet, we dream of a new heaven and earth!
Come Lord Jesus, let Your light and love guide and fill us
that we might be like You today.*

Amen



Evening Prayers | Examen

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- What do you need to surrender to him?

CLOSING PRAYER

*Circle our neighbourhoods, Lord
 Circle... (name specific people in your
 neighbourhood and life), Lord
 Keep hope near and hopelessness afar,
 Keep peace near and conflict afar,
 Keep health near and ill-health afar,
 Keep love near and loneliness afar,
 Circle us Lord with your grace and favour
 That Your shalom and goodness might flourish.
 Circle our neighbourhoods, Lord
 Let Your kingdom come
 That we might bear witness to Your glory in
 flesh,
 Right next door.*

Amen

Friday



Morning Prayers | Psalm 31:7-8;19-20

*I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love,
for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul.
You have not handed me over to my enemies but have set me in a safe place...
How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you.
You lavish it on those who come to you for protection,
blessing them before the watching world.
You hide them in the shelter of your presence, safe from those who conspire against them.
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Listening Through Scripture | Lectio Divina

Review: Isaiah 9:6, John 1:14, 1 John 1:1, Revelation 21:3-5

Today we re-visit some of the texts. Again, the posture is to listen and receive. What is the Lord saying to you through these texts? Perhaps you will want to use your favourite translation again.

*Holy Spirit Come
Open my heart to receive Your grace
Open my mind to learn Your truth
Open my eyes to the wonder of Your world
Open my ears to Hear Your voice
May You use me to extend Your love to everyone I meet.
Come, Lord Jesus, Come*

Amen

1. What words or phrases jumped out at you as you read these texts?
2. Why do you think the Holy Spirit drew your attention to these words or phrases?
3. Where do you see the relationship between the texts and our time and place in the world?
4. How do you think God might be guiding you into living into these texts?



Reflection

1. Take all that you have heard and discovered so far this week through all the various practices, prayers, videos readings and discussions.
2. What are you learning?
3. What key themes have captured your attention?
4. How can you tangibly live these themes out in your life? What would it look like?



Action

- **Ask the Lord** to speak to you today by bringing passages of scripture to mind and words of encouragement that you can hold onto today.
- **Look at today's news.** Ask the Lord to highlight one headline that you can pray into. Ask him to give you a promise or verse from the Bible so you can pray his words over the situation.
- **Be intentional** about looking for ways to bless others today through listening, kindness, and hospitality. (As simple as saying hello or thank you with a smile to someone)

PRAY

*In this Advent season, we long for You, we watch for You.
 Come Lord Jesus and dwell among us.
 We wait for You to birth again, new life and eyes to see
 Your beauty, flesh and blood, right next door.
 Come Lord Jesus and sit beside us,
 Even as creation groans, we wait in hope
 Come Lord Jesus and walk with us.
 For You have gone before yet invite us to prepare the Way.
 You are at work in our midst and yet invite us to participate in it -
 The redemption of all things!
 Your kingdom is near, on our streets, in our communities -
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 Come Lord Jesus, let Your light and love guide and fill us
 that we might be like You today.*

Amen



Evening Prayers | Examen

As we come to the end of the day think about where you have experienced Jesus' presence, power and pleasure in your day. Record these in your journal. Meditate on the scripture passage below.

- What was life giving today? What brought you joy?
- Were you able to practice loving others today?
- What was challenging today? Where did you go your own way today instead of following Jesus? Take time to ask forgiveness.
- Where did you see God at work?
- What do you need to surrender to him?

*The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighbourhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish.*

John 1:14

CLOSING PRAYER

*Circle our neighbourhoods, Lord
Circle... (name specific people in your
neighbourhood and life), Lord
Keep hope near and hopelessness afar,
Keep peace near and conflict afar,
Keep health near and ill-health afar,
Keep love near and loneliness afar,
Circle us Lord with your grace and favour
That Your shalom and goodness might flourish.
Circle our neighbourhoods, Lord
Let Your kingdom come
That we might bear witness to Your glory in flesh,
Right next door.*

Amen

Saturday



Morning Prayers | Psalm 31:7-8;19-20

*I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love,
for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul.
You have not handed me over to my enemies but have set me in a safe place...
How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you.
You lavish it on those who come to you for protection,
blessing them before the watching world.
You hide them in the shelter of your presence, safe from those who conspire against them.
You shelter them in your presence, far from accusing tongues.*

Pray and ask the Lord to bless the day, to show you where He is at work and how you can join him. Ask God to help you listen well to others today. Pray that the Lord would use you today and to be his presence everywhere you go.



Listening Through Scripture | Lectio Divina

It is crazy to think that the “Word” himself was waiting on Mary’s word of “yes” in order to come and dwell among us. With this in mind, read the following verses once again and listen for where God (the Word) might be waiting on your “yes” in order to carry out his work.

While We Wait: Matthew 1:23, 1 John 1:1, Revelation 21:3-5

1. What words or phrases caught your attention?
2. How do these words and phrases connect with all you have learned and discovered this week?
3. In this “With God Life” that we are living where do you think the Lord is guiding you? How will you respond.?



Reflection

Tomorrow is Sabbath. Reflect on the following questions.

- What do you need to do today in order to prepare your heart for gathering together in worship?
- What do you need to do around your home to prepare for Sabbath?
- What Advent activity can you engage in today or tomorrow?
- Who can you invite along with you?



Evening Prayers | Examen

As we come to the end of the day think about where you have experienced Jesus' presence, power and pleasure in your day. Record these in your journal. Meditate on the scripture passage below.

- What was life giving today? What brought you joy?
- Were you able to practice loving others today?
- What was challenging today? Where did you go your own way today instead of following Jesus? Take time to ask forgiveness.
- Where did you see God at work?
- What do you need to surrender to him?

*"Look! I stand at the door and knock.
If you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in, and we will share a meal
together as friends.*

Revelation 3:20

PRAYER FOR SABBATH REST

*Lord Jesus, Come
Thank you for your presence in my life and in the
world this week.
As I prepare my heart for Sabbath tomorrow,
would you meet me in this place?
Would you gently show me how you want me to
worship you tomorrow?
Will you tenderly guide me into your presence?
Will you instil courage in me to let go of my need
to be in control
so that I may be present to you tomorrow?
Will you restore my soul?*

Amen