ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ADVENTing

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

From Advent to Epiphany

NOVEMBER 29, 2026 – JANUARY 9, 2027

WELCOME TO THE ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Advent is a season of waiting, and waiting is not always easy. We light candles, sing familiar songs, and hear the old stories retold. We wait for Christ to be born in us again, and also for the day Christ returns and the world is healed. Until then, Advent invites us to slow down and make room for that hope. It reminds us that God has always been faithful to come near, from the first promise made in the wilderness to a child born in a stable in Bethlehem.

This devotional is an invitation to walk through this season with intention, whether you have followed Jesus for many years or are just beginning to explore faith. Each day, from the first Sunday of Advent through Epiphany, you will find two Scripture passages to read and two questions to sit with. We encourage you to keep a journal alongside this book, whether that is a new notebook, one you already have, or the notes app on your phone. Write whatever comes to you, whether that means a sentence, a list, a doodle, or a full page. Nothing here needs to be perfect. Come as you are and let the words meet you where you are.

Each day also includes a prayer written by someone in our congregation. Every day brings a different voice, so over these weeks you will hear the prayers of members, friends, and neighbors who are walking this same road alongside you. Reading them may remind you that you are not waiting alone.

Each week, you will also find a prayer for our congregation as we prepare for the coming transition in our senior leadership. We are grateful for the years of faithful ministry we have shared, and we are trusting God to lead us into what comes next. These prayers are an invitation to hold our church, our leaders, and one another in God's care.

Use this devotional in whatever way helps you draw closer to Christ. You might read it each morning with your coffee, keep it on the nightstand for quiet evenings, or share the questions with your family around the dinner table. Some days you may linger, and some days you may only glance at the page. Both are welcome.

As we prepare for Christmas and the coming of Christ, may this season open our hearts to hope, our hands to service, and our lives to the God who keeps every promise.

Grace and peace to you as you begin.

INSIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME 3

HOPING 5
WEEK ONE · NOV 29 – DEC 5

WAITING 13
WEEK TWO · DEC 6 – DEC 12

TURNING 21
WEEK THREE · DEC 13 – DEC 19

RECEIVING 29
WEEK FOUR · DEC 20 – DEC 26

REJOICING 37
WEEK FIVE · DEC 27 – JAN 2

REVEALING 45
WEEK SIX · JAN 3 – JAN 9

EACH DAY FOLLOWS THE SAME RHYTHM

SCRIPTURE | SIT WITH | PRAYER

KEEP A JOURNAL

We encourage you to keep a journal this season. It can be a new notebook, one you already have, or the notes app on your phone. Write down what stands out to you in the Scripture readings, what comes up as you sit with the questions, and anything you want to bring to God in prayer.

By Epiphany, you will have a record of how God met you this Advent, and something to look back on in the years ahead.

WEEK ONE



HOPING

NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 5

A PRAYER FOR ST. LUKE'S

Faithful God, you have been our hope through every season of St. Luke's, and we trust you with the season that is to come. Keep us as an open community of Christians, helping all people find and give hope through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pray this each day this week as our church prepares for the transition in senior leadership.

HOPING DAY 01

SUNDAY · NOVEMBER 29

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Isaiah 11:1-10**
- ☐ **Matthew 24:36-44**

> Isaiah imagines new life rising from what appears cut down: a shoot from the stump of Jesse, filled with God's Spirit, ruling with justice and bringing peace to all creation. Jesus reminds us that the timing of his coming is unknown, so hope remains awake and ready. Together, these passages invite us to trust God's promised future while living attentively and faithfully in the present.

SIT WITH

01 Where do you long to see Christ's justice, wisdom, or peace take root in the world?

02 What practice could help you stay awake, ready, and faithful as you wait for Christ?

PRAYER

Lord, Heavenly Father,

During this Advent time, we slow down, and we look forward to the birth of your son, Jesus Christ. Slowing down is not always easy; waiting is not easy. And yet, that is what we are often called to do. Jesus is righteous; He is strength. And yet, He is merciful; forgiving; loving. When we let our hearts follow Him, we find peace and justice.

We are sinners. We fall down. And yet, time after time, Jesus leaves the flock to come find us where we are and bring us back to him.

Help us to invite God to fill our hearts and minds today. Let us embody the hope He can deliver to those around us. When we follow His lead, He leads us to justice. He leads us to peace. Lead our hearts to peace this Advent season. Celebrating the hope of Jesus coming down to earth. Celebrating the hope of what this world can look like when we let God lead our hearts. In your name, we pray. Amen.

PRAYER BY ADAM AND NICOLE JASPERSON

WEEK ONE

HOPING DAY 02

MONDAY · NOVEMBER 30

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Micah 3:1-4**
- ☐ **Romans 15:4-13**

> Micah warns against leaders who ignore justice and exploit those entrusted to their care. Paul points toward a different way: Scripture gives endurance and hope, and Christ gathers people into harmony, joy, peace, and welcome. Advent hope does not look away from wrongdoing; it trusts God enough to seek justice and extend Christ's welcome.

SIT WITH

01 Where does Micah challenge you to notice injustice or use responsibility more faithfully?

02 How can Paul's call to endurance, harmony, and welcome shape the hope you share today?

PRAYER

God, in this season of Advent, we find ourselves longing for what is to come. During this adventure of waiting, we ask that you do not hide your face from us, but make your presence known in fresh and unexpected ways.

God, as the great gift giver, grant us the endurance and encouragement we need in order to wait faithfully. Through your steadfastness and solace, shape us into your likeness, unite us in love, and open our hearts to welcome others into your family. God, in this darkest moment of the year, we join the chorus of believers, past and present, who proclaim that your light is coming. Fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you, so that we may abound in hope with the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER BY TODD WAGGONER

HOPING DAY 03

TUESDAY · DECEMBER 1

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Malachi 3:1-4**
- ☐ **Philippians 1:3-11**

> Malachi announces a messenger who prepares the way and a refining presence that purifies worship. Paul's prayer shows that preparation as love growing in knowledge, insight, and fruitful living until the day of Christ.

SIT WITH

01 What might God be refining or preparing in you as Malachi describes?

02 How can your love grow in knowledge and insight as Paul prays?

PRAYER

God, as we enter into this season of Advent, help us remember that this season is a time of hope. Hope takes a different form for each person. It may be hope in our daily lives. Hope in times of wanting. Sharing hope within communities. Hope for our future. Having hope is essential in our faith journey. We know of your promises, God, and your love for your people. As we read the passages today, we trust in your faithfulness and the promises that you made. God, may we pray for people who may have lost hope and that today is the day that hope comes back into their lives. May they find growth in love and faith by hearing your words. May the hope that fills our hearts this Advent season continue to shape who we are and how we love every day. Amen.

PRAYER BY LYNN GALE

HOPING DAY 04

WEDNESDAY · DECEMBER 2

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Micah 5:1-5a**
- ☐ **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

> Micah promises a ruler from little Bethlehem who will shepherd in God's strength and become peace. Paul prays that believers will be strengthened in holiness through an overflowing love that prepares them for Christ's coming.

SIT WITH

01 What new song of praise rises in you as you remember God's saving work?

02 How can you strengthen a relationship in love while waiting for Christ's coming?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, as we begin this Advent season waiting to celebrate the birth of the Christ child, we recall the words of solace and hope from the prophet Micah, foretelling the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem and His promised rule as a shepherd of peace and source of strength for all people. We live in a world that spawns so much uncertainty and pain each day. We struggle to find the means to cope with it. Yet all of our lives you have been faithful to us and so good. So, we turn to you today in prayer because we know you are faithful and true to your word. We ask that you refresh us in your spirit and make us an instrument of your peace. Use us to give solace and hope to others who face uncertainty, pain, and despair in this season. We pray for those suffering from illness; coping with the loss of a loved one; harboring doubts about their faith; dealing with unemployment; experiencing isolation from those they love; and facing countless unknown wounds of body or spirit. Lord, we ask that you instill hope in their hearts and grant them comfort, strength and peace. Amen.

PRAYER BY DAVID STIPPLER

HOPING DAY 05

THURSDAY · DECEMBER 3

SCRIPTURE

☐ **Isaiah 40:1-11** ☐ **Matthew 3:1-12**

> Isaiah speaks comfort and promises that God will lead the people home like a shepherd. John the Baptist echoes the call to prepare the Lord's way through repentance that bears visible fruit.

SIT WITH

01 Where do you need God's comfort or a clear path through the wilderness?

02 What fruit of repentance can help prepare the way of the Lord?

PRAYER

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Father, we praise you for the hope that only you can give. You have promised to clear the wilderness, to lift up the valleys and make low the mountains and hills in our path. We know that we, like the grass and flowers of the field, wither and fade, and our strength does not last. But your word stands forever, and in that we find our hope. Thank you for the good news that you do not leave us to ourselves. You come with power, a mighty God. Yet you tend us as a shepherd tends his flock. You gather us in your arms, carry us close to your heart, and lead us gently.

Lord, when the wilderness feels long and the mountains feel high, remind us that you are near and the road to you is being made. Let us hold our hope in you and not in ourselves. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MATTHEW 3:1-12

Father, we praise you that the kingdom of heaven is near. Like John in the wilderness, your voice still calls us to turn back to you, and we thank you that repentance is not the end of our story but the doorway to hope through which we can walk.

We confess that we are tempted to trust in ourselves through our own good works and our own ways. Forgive us. Make us people who bear fruit in keeping with repentance, who prepare the way for you with honest hearts.

Thank you for the One who comes after John, greater than any of us can imagine. He baptizes us with your Holy Spirit, making us clean and making us new. He gathers his wheat into the barn, and we hope to be held safe in your hands.

Lord, in a world of chaff, anchor our hope in Jesus, the coming King. In his name we pray, Amen.

PRAYER BY TRISTAN PALMER

HOPING DAY 06

FRIDAY · DECEMBER 4

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Jeremiah 1:4-10**
- ☐ **Acts 11:19-26**

> Jeremiah's call shows that God knows, equips, and sends people who feel unready. In Antioch, scattered believers speak the good news, grace becomes visible, and a growing community learns to live as Christ's disciples.

SIT WITH

01 Where is God calling you beyond feelings of inadequacy, as God called Jeremiah?

02 How can you encourage the spread of Christ's good news as the church in Antioch did?

PRAYER

God of old and God of the present, just as you raised up the prophets and apostles, would you open our eyes, ears, minds, and hearts so that we might know your call to us? You have work for us to do. Please fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may engage the world, when it breaks our hearts, when circumstances or people disappoint us, when despair threatens to overtake. Just as you reassured Jeremiah and Barnabas that you were with them, equipping and protecting them, reassure us and give us faith, boldness, and strength. Help each one of us to be your appointed ministers, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through our words and acts of kindness, encouragement, hope, and love. Speak to us through your invitations and move us to RSVP with joyful hearts. Amen.

PRAYER BY BEV GALLAGHER

HOPING DAY 07

SATURDAY · DECEMBER 5

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Ezekiel 36:24-28**
- ☐ **Philippians 1:3-11**

> Ezekiel promises cleansing, a new heart, and God's Spirit within a restored people. Paul's grateful prayer trusts that the God who begins good work will carry it toward completion in lives filled with discerning love and righteous fruit.

SIT WITH

01 What hardened place in you needs the new heart and spirit God promises?

02 How can you pray with gratitude and confidence for God's work in another person?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the messages of hope and renewal in our scripture readings for today. Because we are able to stay curious about the words and the happenings, we are able to consider how they live in the world today in new ways, with new hope. Thank you for lifting the need to seek gratitude often. Without it, our lives are dim. Every year during Advent we celebrate the birth of a baby who brings so much hope, love and light to our world. And every year we get to start anew. Thank you, dear Lord, for the opportunity to begin again, for in new beginnings there is much hope and possibility. May our hearts be filled with your love every day. May we spread that love all around. Amen.

PRAYER BY EMILY AVIS

WEEK TWO



WAITING

DECEMBER 6 – 12

A PRAYER FOR ST. LUKE'S

Patient God, as our Bishop's Cabinet prayerfully discerns the next senior pastor; we wait on you with open hearts and open hands. Quiet our anxious hearts and remind us that your Spirit is already at work among us. Amen.

Pray this each day this week as our church prepares for the transition in senior leadership.

WAITING DAY 08

SUNDAY · DECEMBER 6

SCRIPTURE

☐ **Isaiah 2:1-5** ☐ **Matthew 25:36-44**

> Isaiah invites God's people to walk in divine light and learn a peace that turns weapons into tools for life. Jesus reveals that receiving him includes feeding, welcoming, clothing, and visiting people in need.

SIT WITH

01 What would it mean for you to walk in God's light and learn the ways of peace?

02 Where is Christ waiting to be received through your care for someone in need?

PRAYER

Dear God,

In this second week of Advent, we find ourselves waiting for you to show up in our lives and in our world. This waiting is not a passive waiting where we are sitting around wondering when will God do something to make our lives perfect. It is an active waiting where we listen for your words and follow your commandments. It is a waiting where we continue to be Jesus to our neighbors, friends, and strangers. It is a waiting where we seek your peace inside of us as well as with those around us. It is a waiting where we walk out of darkness into your light.

It is not always an easy waiting as we see darkness creep around us. Life can be hard in this darkness, and we can easily feel lonely and lost. During these times, we lean on You to show us the path to walk that leads us to you. We lean on scripture to guide our path as we actively wait. Help us see You are always with us and constantly working in us. Guide our path Lord and lead us toward You in all we say and do, not only in this Advent season, but in all of life's seasons.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER BY SUSANNE BAUGHMAN

WAITING DAY 09

MONDAY · DECEMBER 7

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Isaiah 26:7-15**
- ☐ **Matthew 25:36-44**

> Isaiah describes the path of the righteous and a longing for God's presence, trusting the Lord to establish peace and recognizing that all we accomplish comes through God's work. Jesus teaches that caring for people who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, unclothed, sick, or imprisoned is a way of serving him. Together, these passages invite us to wait for God with trust while putting that trust into compassionate action.

SIT WITH

01 Where do you long for God's guidance and peace, and how can you trust God's work as you wait?

02 How can you serve Christ today by offering practical care to someone who is hungry, a stranger, sick, or otherwise in need?

PRAYER

Good and gracious God, as we wait during this season of Advent to see and feel Your Spirit moving through the world, help us recognize the part that we are called to play in living out that Spirit. We want to serve You and do Your will. Help us stand together, encourage one another in Your name, and care for those around us as You have instructed.

Thank You for the blessings of Your love and mercy that You have bestowed upon us. In turn, guide us to show that same love and mercy to our fellow human beings. Help us to remain civil in the face of those who would cast aside decency and teach us how to respond to incivility with patience, wisdom, and grace. Guide us to heal divisions in our homes, towns, country and world. Give us patience as we wait and open our hearts to Your presence among us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER BY DAWN AND RON BROWN

WAITING DAY 10

TUESDAY · DECEMBER 8

SCRIPTURE

☐ **Jeremiah 33:14-16** ☐ **Mark 13:24-37**

> Jeremiah promises that God's righteous Branch will bring justice and safety. Jesus calls disciples to stay awake, attentive, and faithful because the hour of his coming is unknown.

SIT WITH

01 Where do you see signs of God's promised restoration beginning to emerge?

02 How can you stay awake and faithful as you wait for Christ's birth?

PRAYER

Almighty God, during this season of Advent, we find ourselves in a time of holy pause, a time filled with the tension of the "not yet," the tension of waiting, that calls us to stand in the space between what is and what is to come. As we wait, in a time such as this, where at any given moment, the shadow of darkness may creep into our world and our lives, please give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Loving God, help us to remember Jeremiah's prophecy that God's word and promises are certain and never broken. In moments when the circumstances of our world or our lives may look like ruins through our lens, may we be anchored in God's faithfulness to His word and promises as to fill our hearts and minds with the hope and light of Jesus and what is to come. As we wait, let us not be passive and sit idle, but rather be active stewards of the household of God. May the message of Mark encourage each of us to be ever mindful of the world around us and the needs of not only ourselves but also, each child of God around us. Please lead us, in a time such as this, to work to bring glimpses of God's Kingdom to the here and the now, through acts of service, mercy, and love. God, please forgive us for the moments when we fall asleep to the injustice around us, the needs of those around us, and in the darkness, lose hope. In our moments of waiting, and during the tension of the "not yet," help us to not grow weary, but rather, open our hearts and minds to be actively and intentionally watchful of your footprints you leave each day in our lives and our world. Each day may your light perpetually shine upon us and through each of us, as to leave the hope, love, and joy wherever we may, with whomever we shall meet, and through the service you have called us to do this Advent season. Amen.

PRAYER BY MADELINE LANDES

WAITING ✶ DAY 11

WEDNESDAY · DECEMBER 9

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Psalm 25:1-9**
- ☐ **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

> The psalmist waits with trust, asking God to teach the right paths with mercy and truth. Paul gives thanks that God has enriched and sustained the church, promising faithfulness as believers await Christ's revealing.

SIT WITH

01 What path do you need God to teach you as you place your hope in God?

02 How does God's faithfulness strengthen you while you wait for Christ's birth?

PRAYER

Loving Heavenly Father,

As we walk through this Advent, we thank you for your grace, in sending your Son, Christ Jesus, our Savior. Let us be receptive to your heart, learning how to love as you love. We ask for your guidance Lord, to learn to live in your truth and compassion, to share this with those you put in our paths. We ask you to help us be humble, open to you and experiencing your faithfulness, so that we might be made complete, through Christ, our Messiah, as you intended us to be.

Holy Spirit, teach us to submit to your leading, accepting your constant presence, and revealing God's love in this season.

PRAYER BY DONIESA KOVALSKY

WAITING DAY 12

THURSDAY · DECEMBER 10

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Isaiah 40:27-31**
- ☐ **Luke 21:25-36**

> Isaiah promises renewed strength to those who wait for the Lord, even when they feel weary or forgotten. Jesus calls his followers to stand with hope, remain alert, and pray through unsettling times.

SIT WITH

01 Where do you need renewed strength to wait upon the Lord?

02 What helps you stay alert and prayerful amid uncertainty about Christ's birth?

PRAYER

Advent arrives, and somehow my calendar needs a nap before I do. Isaiah understands exhaustion: even the young stumble. But I take comfort knowing God never tires of strengthening me. In Luke's unsettling world, Jesus tells us to raise our heads and stay alert in prayer.

Sound familiar? I find division in our country, suffering abroad, and everyday worries often leave me staring down—and often at my phone. Advent invites me and you to watch for Christ, whose coming promises redemption.

Adam Hamilton writes, "Hope is a decision we make." What might that decision look like today?

Lift your head (and set down the phone). Make room for hope—gently invite it in. Each week this Advent, pause to breathe and pray, then reach out to someone. Maybe someone who feels forgotten or alone. A call, a meal, an invitation: small gifts can carry God's love.

God of the weary, breathe renewal into us. Jesus, lovingly lift our eyes. Holy Spirit, guide us in our hopeful waiting to perform affirming acts of love. Amen.

PRAYER BY KATHY ARMINGTON

WAITING DAY 13

FRIDAY · DECEMBER 11

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Lamentations 3:21-26**
- ☐ **2 Peter 3:8-15a**

> Lamentations grounds hope in God's steadfast love and morning-by-morning mercy. Peter teaches that God's seeming delay is patience, giving space for repentance and calling us to lives of holiness and peace.

SIT WITH

01 Which of God's mercies gives you hope while you wait quietly?

02 How can the Lord's patience move you toward holy and peaceful living?

PRAYER

God, you are powerful and mighty, you freed the Israelites from Egypt without using the sword, but by using plagues and pestilence. You freed us from the death grip of sin by the power of your love through Jesus' sacrifice and death. We know that we are not deserving of this gift, but our faith sees the promise of salvation that will carry us to eternity.

We are like children where we can see wrapped presents from our parents under the tree with our names already on the tag. As we wait for Christmas, we want to be on our best behavior. We are anxiously waiting for when we will be with you, and we will realize the full gift of the salvation that has been so richly given to us. We ask for strength to be diligent followers of Christ. We ask for wisdom to make excellent choices while we wait. We celebrate the birth of this small child and how Jesus provides us a gift of eternal life. Amen.

PRAYER BY PETE BRING

WAITING DAY 14

SATURDAY · DECEMBER 12

SCRIPTURE

☐ **Micah 7:7** ☐ **James 5:7-11**

> Micah chooses to watch and wait for the saving God who hears. James compares patient faith to a farmer awaiting harvest and points to the prophets and Job as companions in steadfast endurance.

SIT WITH

01 For what are you watching with hope in God?

02 How can the farmer's patience and the prophets' endurance shape your waiting today?

ESPAÑOL

Padre Celestial,

En esta temporada de Adviento, nos acercamos a ti con corazones llenos de fe y esperanza, recordando tu promesa en Miqueas 7:7: "Mas yo a Jehová miraré, esperaré al Dios de mi salvación; el Dios mío me oirá".

Señor, enséñanos a esperar pacientemente, confiando en tu voluntad y en tus tiempos perfectos. Como nos recuerda Santiago 5:7, así como el agricultor espera con paciencia el precioso fruto de la tierra, ayúdanos a perseverar mientras esperamos el cumplimiento de tus promesas.

Padre, fortalece nuestros corazones, como nos enseña Santiago 5:8, para permanecer firmes en la fe. Oramos por quienes enfrentan enfermedades, dificultades económicas, desempleo y relaciones familiares quebrantadas. Concédeles paz, sanidad, provisión y esperanza.

Así como Job perseveró en medio del sufrimiento, según Santiago 5:11, recuérdanos que eres misericordioso y compasivo.

Que este Adviento sea un tiempo de preparación espiritual, amor y renovación de nuestra fe. Mientras celebramos el nacimiento de Jesús y esperamos su regreso, ayúdanos a vivir con paciencia, valentía y confianza en ti.

En el nombre de Jesús, amén.

ENGLISH

Heavenly Father,

During this Advent season, we come before You with hearts filled with faith and hope, remembering Your promise in Micah 7:7: "But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me."

Lord, teach us to wait patiently, trusting in Your will and Your perfect timing. As James 5:7 reminds us, just as the farmer patiently waits for the precious fruit of the earth, help us persevere as we wait for the fulfillment of Your promises.

Father, strengthen our hearts, as James 5:8 teaches us, so that we may remain firm in our faith. We pray for those facing illness, financial difficulties, unemployment, and broken family relationships. Grant them peace, healing, provision, and hope.

Just as Job persevered through suffering, as described in James 5:11, remind us that You are full of compassion and mercy.

May this Advent season be a time of spiritual preparation, love, and renewed faith. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus and await His return, help us live with patience, courage, and complete trust in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER BY ZORAYDA ZAYAS AND MARIA MENDEZ

WEEK THREE



TURNING

DECEMBER 13 – 19

A PRAYER FOR ST. LUKE'S

Living God, you call us to turn toward you and toward one another, and we turn to you now for guidance. Make us a people who love like Jesus and who seek justice, that our mission might endure and thrive no matter who leads us. Amen.

Pray this each day this week as our church prepares for the transition in senior leadership.

WEEK THREE

TURNING DAY 15

SUNDAY · DECEMBER 13

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Psalm 80:17-19**
- ☐ **Mark 1:1-8**

> The psalm cries for restoration: "Let Your face shine, that we may be saved." Mark answers with John's call to repentance, inviting people to turn, prepare the Lord's way, and become ready for the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

SIT WITH

01 Where is God calling you to turn from a destructive path and choose life?

02 What can you do to prepare the way of the Lord?

PRAYER

Dear God,

As we prepare for the coming of Christ, help us to reflect on what it means to turn our focus toward you and your love. Help us turn to those who are in need, those who are brokenhearted and experiencing loss this holiday season, and those who seek freedom in mind, body, and spirit. We pray with those who mourn alongside us over the pain felt in our communities, our nation, and our world. Use us to be a light in the lives of those around us and help us bring your love and compassion to those who need it most.

Lord, help us also remember to turn toward you. When we are overwhelmed with the busyness and stress of this life, help us to turn toward the peace, hope, and love that you offer each and every day, and that you have shown us through the gift of your Son. May we breathe in your presence throughout this Advent season as we reflect on what it means to turn toward you. Remind us of your love that brings us together and gives us hope through Christ Jesus.

PRAYER BY JACK AND KENDRA WILLKE

TURNING DAY 16

MONDAY · DECEMBER 14

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Isaiah 12:1-6**
- ☐ **James 4:1-10**

> Isaiah's song turns deliverance into joyful praise and trust. James names the conflicts produced by disordered desire and calls us to draw near to God with humility, repentance, and undivided hearts.

SIT WITH

01 What praise rises in you as you draw water from the wells of salvation?

02 What desire or conflict needs to be surrendered as you humble yourself before God?

PRAYER

Loving God,

Though our daily struggles can blind us to your presence at times, we can choose to trust in your love and faithfulness. So often our requests are selfish; humble our hearts and turn our focus from ourselves to serving others. During these times of fighting and turbulence in our country and in our world, fill us with your comfort and peace. From comfort can come the salvation that only you can give us through your son Jesus. That salvation can lead to joy: inner joy for each of us and Joy to the World. When we feel that joy, we are moved to praise you and glorify you. You are the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Savior of the world! Thank you for bringing Christ into our lives and the possibilities for turning from being afraid to being joyful. Help us spread that joy to others! Amen.

PRAYER BY RUSS AND SALLY ABARR

TURNING DAY 17

TUESDAY · DECEMBER 15

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Psalm 85:1-3**
- ☐ **Acts 11:19-26**

> The psalm remembers God's forgiveness and asks for renewed life. In Antioch, people turn to the Lord, Barnabas recognizes God's grace, and disciples are formed through encouragement, teaching, and faithful community.

SIT WITH

01 Where do you long for God to restore and revive you?

02 What change of heart or action would show genuine change?

PRAYER

Gracious and Almighty Heavenly Father,

How we give You thanks for this day and the days ahead, Lord Jesus. As we prepare our hearts for Advent, remind us of Your loving mercy and grace. You have shown us favor, restored us, forgiven our sins, and turned away Your wrath. Father God, what a powerful example of how we should live our own lives!

Lord, I am so grateful for Your patience, forgiveness, and unconditional love. Help us, as brothers and sisters in Christ, to be strong and courageous. May we never become so comfortable in our own lives that we forget those who are lost and searching for You. Just as Barnabas encouraged the believers and helped Saul in his ministry, guide us to encourage one another, grow in faith, and boldly share Your love with others. Father God, remind us that we have nothing to fear, for You are always by our side. May the gifts You have given us flourish and be used for Your glory. Above all, Lord Jesus, teach us to be obedient to Your calling. May Your will be done, Father, not ours.

In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

PRAYER BY DASH KERSHNER

TURNING DAY 18

WEDNESDAY · DECEMBER 16

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Isaiah 29:17-24**
- ☐ **Mark 4:1-9**

> Isaiah envisions reversal: fruitful land, hearing for the deaf, sight for the blind, joy for the humble, and justice for the oppressed. Jesus' parable asks whether God's word will take root deeply enough to bear fruit.

SIT WITH

01 What part of your life needs God's promised renewal, justice, or understanding?

02 What kind of soil is your heart today?

PRAYER

Gracious and loving God,

Through Isaiah, you promise to turn the wilderness into a fruitful field and to open the eyes of those who cannot see your truth.

Like the sower in Jesus' parable, you scatter seeds of hope, love, and grace into our lives. Please turn the soil of our hearts so that your Word may take root and grow. Where we have become hardened, soften us. Where we are distracted, draw us closer. Where we have lost hope, renew our faith.

Turn us toward your kingdom, that we may live as faithful witnesses to your renewing grace, and may our turning toward you lead us to turn toward our neighbors with compassion, justice, and mercy. Help us bear fruit that reflects the goodness of your kingdom and brings glory to your name.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER BY GARY CHAMBERS

TURNING DAY 19

THURSDAY · DECEMBER 17

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Psalm 80:1-7**
- ☐ **Luke 1:46-55**

> The psalm longs for God to restore and revive a suffering people. Mary's song celebrates mercy that overturns pride, lifts the lowly, feeds the hungry, and remembers God's promise.

SIT WITH

01 What would returning to God with your whole heart look like today?

02 How does Mary's song challenge you to receive God's mercy and join God's work of lifting the lowly?

PRAYER

Dear God, Co-Creator and Friend,

As I read Mary's words, my soul also opened up to you. I feel your gentle presence surrounding me and guiding me. Your joy overflows from my heart, and I rest in the knowledge that your face is shining down upon me. Lord, you are creating paths of delight this holiday season; please help me to watch for them, even in the midst of stress or chaos. Save me from the need to give and get the best gift. Instead let my light shine before you and my friends and family, that they may all see you through my words and actions. May my presence remind them of the sacredness of this season. God, I know this holiday season is difficult for many people, bringing feelings of loneliness and disappointment or grief. God, please bring me opportunities to show people that they are not alone. Amen.

PRAYER BY ANGEL FLORA

WEEK THREE

TURNING DAY 20

FRIDAY · DECEMBER 18

SCRIPTURE

- [ ] **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**
- [ ] **1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**

> Ecclesiastes reminds us that life holds seasons for beginning and ending, grieving and rejoicing, silence and speech. The Thessalonians embody a decisive turning from idols toward the living God while waiting for Christ.

SIT WITH

01 What must you turn from as you seek the Lord and receive mercy?

02 How can your life show tangible change while awaiting Christ?

PRAYER

Dear God,

You're the designer of time and the anchor in every season of my life. I know nothing in this world stays the same, but Your love and presence are constant.

Help me embrace where I am right now. Give me the wisdom to understand what this season is teaching me—whether it's a time to build up, let go, heal, grieve, or celebrate. When I feel overwhelmed or stuck in waiting, ground me in the trust that beauty takes time to unfold. Thank You for freeing me from short-sighted distractions and grounding me in true hope. Remind me daily that my purpose isn't bound by current circumstances, but by the endless grace found in Jesus. As I move through today's shifting rhythms, keep my heart open, patient, and full of hope for the future. Amen.

PRAYER BY STACI AND AARON STRAND

TURNING DAY 21

SATURDAY · DECEMBER 19

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Jeremiah 31:1-3**
- ☐ **Luke 3:7-18**

> Jeremiah speaks God's everlasting love and faithful drawing of the people. John insists that repentance must bear fruit in generosity, economic honesty, justice, and contentment as people prepare for the coming Messiah.

SIT WITH

01 How does God's everlasting love draw you back toward faithfulness?

02 What fruit of turning—generosity, justice, or contentment—can you practice today?

PRAYER

God, our Heavenly Father, we come before You with immeasurable gratitude, humility, and adoration. We thank You for showing us everlasting love from the grave to the cross. Even though we sin against each other and against You, Your faithful love endures as You give us grace over and over again. Help us, Father, to show faithfulness by following Your example—sharing with one another not only during this season of giving, but continually throughout the year. Remind us that we can share our treasures, time, and talents with those in need, those facing hardships, those who feel alone, burdened, or cast aside. Shine through us as we comfort, empathize, and encourage.

We know You are able to fix all things, and You call upon us, Your servants, to share with, lift up, and care for Your people. God, give us strength and wisdom to answer Your call, offering ourselves in love as we remember that You paid the ultimate sacrifice for us. As we read these passages today, light a fire within us so we hear and respond to Your call, doing Your powerful will here on earth. Amen.

PRAYER BY GLENDA WESTMORELAND

WEEK FOUR



RECEIVING

DECEMBER 20 – 26

A PRAYER FOR ST. LUKE'S

Generous God, you give good gifts to your church, and we receive with gratitude the legacy you have entrusted to us. Grant us grace to honor Pastor Rob's faithful service and to welcome with joy the leader you send. Amen.

Pray this each day this week as our church prepares for the transition in senior leadership.

RECEIVING ✶ *DAY 22*

SUNDAY · DECEMBER 20

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Isaiah 62:6-12**
- ☐ **Titus 2:11-14**

> Isaiah appoints watchful messengers who prepare a holy way and announce salvation. Titus describes God's grace as both gift and teacher, forming a people eager to live with self-control, devotion, and hope.

SIT WITH

01 Where are you being called to watch, prepare, and receive the salvation God brings?

02 How can God's grace train you to live with hope and devotion while awaiting Christ?

PRAYER

Faithful God, we come to you with thanks for your awesome love for us, especially when we might be tempted to doubt it in our impatience and shortsightedness. Once again, help us to persevere in hope and anticipate the coming of a Savior who will redeem us and make us new. We claim the promise of your grace to live upright lives while we wait for the blessings you have promised us. In expectation of your glory we pray, Amen.

PRAYER BY CAROL BEAUSANG

RECEIVING ✶ *DAY 23*

MONDAY · DECEMBER 21

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Isaiah 35:3-6**
- ☐ **John 1:1-14**

> Isaiah strengthens weak hands and fearful hearts with the promise that God is coming to save and restore. John proclaims that the eternal Word became flesh and dwelt among us, revealing grace and truth.

SIT WITH

01 Who needs strengthening, courage, or reassurance from you today?

02 What does it mean for you to receive the Word made flesh and live in Christ's grace and truth?

PRAYER

Dear God,

During this season of Advent, we invite you to help us pause during the hustle and bustle of our day-to-day lives and receive the gift that the birth of Jesus brings to all of us. Your Word became flesh when you sent Jesus. Quiet our minds and remind us that receiving is more than just a gift tied with a beautiful bow; it is welcoming a person—Christ—into our lives! The best gift of all! Help us receive courage when we are afraid, strength when we are weak, healing when we feel broken, and your Spirit when you come to us.

We are grateful for the light of your Word in what can often feel like a dark world. We can have hope because the Light of the World has come! We receive Him with open hands. In your strong name,

Amen.

PRAYER BY LESLIE ROBBINS

RECEIVING DAY 24

TUESDAY · DECEMBER 22

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**
- ☐ **Luke 1:26-38**

> David wants to build God a house, but God promises to establish David's house and enduring kingdom. Mary receives the angel's announcement with honest questions and courageous consent, trusting that nothing is impossible with God.

SIT WITH

01 What promise of God invites you to trust beyond what you can see?

02 How might you echo Mary's willing response to God's call?

PRAYER

LUKE 1:26-38

Dear God, when I complain that you've put too much on my plate, that I lack the strength or talent to carry out your will, you remind me that you once asked a teenage girl to bear, birth, and be a lifelong blessing to the Savior of the world. And she said "yes" without hesitation. May your servant Mary's example confirm again for me that no word from you will ever fail. Amen.

2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

Lord of all creation, your grace and mercy cannot be contained by any house, church, or temple. You plumb the farthest reaches of the cosmos and yet are also as close to me as my breath. Help me to know your truths by studying your word and sharing with you holy conversations of prayer as I build a house for you in my heart. Amen.

PRAYER BY BOB MURRAY

RECEIVING ✶ DAY 25

WEDNESDAY · DECEMBER 23

SCRIPTURE

☐ **Psalm 24:1-5** ☐ **Mark 1:18-25**

> Psalm 24 asks who may stand in God's holy place and answers with integrity of action, heart, and worship. In Mark, Jesus calls disciples and then teaches with an authority that confronts and frees people from what binds them.

SIT WITH

01 What helps you approach God with clean hands, a pure heart, and honest desire?

02 Where is Jesus calling you to follow, listen, or receive his freeing authority?

PRAYER

Psalm 24 reminds us that everything belongs to God and that His blessings are freely given. In Mark 1, Jesus invites ordinary people to leave behind what they know and simply follow Him. With Christmas just two days away, my hope is that this prayer reminds us to slow down, let go of what we're carrying, and open our hearts to receive the greatest gift of all: God's grace and unconditional love.

Gracious and loving God,

As Christmas draws near, help us slow down long enough to recognize the gifts You have already placed before us.

In a season when we spend so much time giving, remind us that sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is simply receive.

Receive Your grace. Your peace. Your love.

Just as You called the first disciples to leave their nets and follow, help us let go of the things that keep us from drawing closer to You.

Open our hearts to receive what we need most, even when it looks different from what we expected. And God, may we never forget that Your love is not something we have to earn. It is a gift freely given with room for everyone.

As we welcome Christ this Christmas, may the love we so freely receive become the love we so freely share.

Come, Lord Jesus. Our hearts are open.

Amen.

PRAYER BY JOEL OGBURN

RECEIVING DAY 26

THURSDAY · DECEMBER 24

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Isaiah 7:10-14**
- ☐ **Matthew 1:18-25**

> On this holy night, pause before rushing to celebration. God comes gently, entering human life from the inside.

SIT WITH

01 What sign of God's presence do you need to receive with trust?

02 How can Joseph's faithful obedience help you welcome Emmanuel amid uncertainty?

PRAYER

Most Holy One, thank you for the promise of Your Word and the sign of your love in the gift of Christ, Immanuel. In this world filled with chaos and confusion, give us the faithfulness of Joseph to believe that goodness and kindness can forge a path through the darkness. Help us remember that we are never alone, that you are always with us.

Before the busyness of the presents, the food, the carols, turn our minds toward the perfect gift that Isaiah foretold. Fill our hearts with joyful anticipation as we await the coming of the Christ Child. May Jesus, son of Mary, be more than a dream within our hearts, guiding our steps and bringing Your peace to the world around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER BY MARIA BLAKE

RECEIVING DAY 27

FRIDAY · DECEMBER 25

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Isaiah 9:6-7**
- ☐ **Luke 2:7-8**

> Isaiah names the promised child Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Luke places the newborn Jesus in a manger beside ordinary shepherds, revealing royal hope through humility and nearness.

SIT WITH

01 How does the promised ruler from Bethlehem reveal God's peace in a humble place?

02 Where do you notice God at work within the ordinary movements and demands of life?

PRAYER

Loving God, as we remember the birth of a baby boy long ago, we celebrate and thank you for the gift of Jesus, your son, our savior, the light of the world. As he grew in life and wisdom, may we grow in faith. Fill our hearts with kindness, our actions with caring, our spirits with gentleness, generosity, and forgiveness. May your presence with us strengthen our trust in you. This we pray in Jesus' name.

PRAYER BY TERRI COE

RECEIVING ✶ *DAY 28*

SATURDAY · DECEMBER 26

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Psalm 97**
- ☐ **Acts 2:38-39**

> Psalm 97 summons the earth to rejoice because the Lord reigns in righteousness and justice. Peter calls people to repent, receive baptism, and welcome the promised Holy Spirit—a gift extended across generations.

SIT WITH

01 How is all creation invited to rejoice in God's righteous reign?

02 What kind of response helps you experience God's Spirit?

PRAYER

Lord,

Thank you for forgiving our many shortcomings. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit—a priceless gift for us, for our children, and even for those who are far away from us. We are very much aware that we can't save ourselves. We can only be saved through your amazing grace. Show us how you want us to live, and we will try to follow you, day by day.

Once again, we thank you for setting us on the right path.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

PRAYER BY SCOTT AND LINDA ARANT

WEEK FIVE



REJOICING

DECEMBER 27 – JANUARY 2

A PRAYER FOR ST. LUKE'S

God of light, you led the wise men to Christ, and we rejoice that you continue to lead your church into new beginnings. Keep St. Luke's a place where all are welcomed with unconditional love, and every person finds hope in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pray this each day this week as our church prepares for the transition in senior leadership.

REJOICING ✶ DAY 29

SUNDAY · DECEMBER 27

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Isaiah 61:10-62:3**
- ☐ **Luke 2:22-40**

> Isaiah rejoices in salvation and pictures God's people as a crown of beauty in the Lord's hand. Simeon and Anna recognize the infant Jesus as God's promised consolation and redemption, then bless God and speak hope to others.

SIT WITH

01 What garment of salvation or sign of God's delight gives you reason to rejoice?

02 What do Simeon and Anna teach you about recognizing, receiving, and speaking of Christ?

PRAYER

Gracious and comforting God, please open our hearts, ears, and minds to receive the joy of salvation and consolation, which were gifts from the Messiah. As proclaimed long ago in these scriptures, let us continue today to rejoice in your grace and continue to marvel at the arrival of the Promised One. May your presence and spirit rest upon us throughout the waiting of the Advent season and the joyful music celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

PRAYER BY KAROL HAMILTON

REJOICING DAY 30

MONDAY · DECEMBER 28

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Psalm 148:1-14**
- ☐ **Galatians 4:4-7**

> Psalm 148 gathers heaven, earth, creatures, rulers, and people into one chorus of praise. Galatians celebrates the fullness of time, when God sent the Son so that we might be adopted and live as beloved children and heirs.

SIT WITH

01 How can you join creation's praise of the Lord today?

02 What changes when you receive your new identity as God's beloved child and heir?

PRAYER

Holy Father God,

Thank you for allowing me to rejoice as You continually reveal the plan of inclusivity of Your love and universal call to worship through consistent patterns I see in all of Your creation. The majesty of Your name is evident in day and night, changes in seasons, and celestial displays! You speak to me along with everyone and everything that You have brought forth by Your Word. I join the entire creation in praising Your unmatched power, glory, and sovereignty over all that exists. Yet in this magnificence, You let me know that You love me and consider me Your child, an heir enjoying the blessings of children of God. I am Yours and You consider me significant among all Your amazing creations. It is difficult for me to understand the value You have attributed to me, but in this Advent season my goal is to share with all others the reasons I rejoice in Your amazing gift of love, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER BY JANET SHIRLEY

REJOICING ✶ DAY 31

TUESDAY · DECEMBER 29

SCRIPTURE

☐ **Isaiah 9:2-4** ☐ **1 John 1:1-4**

> Isaiah rejoices that people walking in darkness have seen a great light and that oppressive burdens are broken. John testifies that the Word became flesh, revealing the Father and pouring out grace upon grace.

SIT WITH

01 Where has God's light broken into darkness or lifted a burden for you?

02 How have grace and truth become visible to you in Jesus Christ?

PRAYER

Holy One,

Sometimes life feels like we're stumbling around in the dark. Trying to be good parents, good partners, good friends, good citizens. We're juggling a thousand things, worrying about the future, wondering if we're doing enough; wondering if we're enough.

And then, somehow, you show up.

In some unexpected kindness, in a child's laughter, in the embrace of someone who loves us, or in a quiet moment when we finally catch our breath. Suddenly, we see hope. We feel loved. We realize we're not alone.

We have walked in darkness, but now we've seen a great light—your light! And we will never be the same.

So how do we respond, O God?

We rejoice! Your love has become real among us. Your Word has taken on flesh and come to dwell among us. You are here—in our homes, our struggles, our celebrations, and our relationships. We belong to you, and we belong to one another. What a gift! Such grace! We didn't earn it. You loved us before we even knew how much we needed you.

Open our eyes, Holy God. Help us recognize your light, share your love, and carry hope into a world that needs it.

Amen.

PRAYER BY STEPHEN HOSKINS

REJOICING ✶ DAY 32

WEDNESDAY · DECEMBER 30

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Isaiah 52:7-10**
- ☐ **John 1:14-18**

> Isaiah celebrates the beautiful arrival of messengers who announce peace, good news, and God's reign. John declares that this good news has taken flesh in Jesus, whose fullness blesses us and makes God known.

SIT WITH

01 What good news of God's reign are you ready to announce or celebrate?

02 How does the Word made flesh invite you to receive and extend grace upon grace?

PRAYER

Oh Lord, center of our joy, we thank You for this season of expectation. We wait for You, Jesus, to fill us anew with Your joy. For we acknowledge You, Lord, as the One who comes to us with peace, good news, and salvation. And we come before You during this season, in anticipation, to be filled once again with Your joy. Forgive us, oh God, when we settle for things that cannot compare to You. Instead, in the midst of all that we carry, things that can so easily weigh us down, make us into proclaimers of Your peace, carriers of Your good news, and declarers of Your salvation by Your Spirit. May we walk in the beauty of Your holiness, God, and share the joy of the Lord with everyone we meet today. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is our joy, Amen.

PRAYER BY TASHA GIBSON

REJOICING ✶ DAY 33

THURSDAY · DECEMBER 31

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Psalm 96:1-13**
- ☐ **Colossians 3:12-17**

> Psalm 96 calls for a new song because the Lord comes to judge the world with righteousness and truth. Colossians shows how that praise becomes daily life through compassion, forgiveness, love, peace, gratitude, and Christ-shaped words and actions.

SIT WITH

01 What new song of praise can you offer for God's faithfulness at the year's end?

02 Which quality named in Colossians—compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, love, peace, or gratitude—do you want to carry forward?

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father and Lord of All,

We praise Your holy name during this season of Advent and anticipation. It's a very busy time, Lord, so busy that we can often get distracted on our pathway to Bethlehem. Guide us, lead us, direct us, and help us to keep our focus and devotion on the Baby in the manger. As the candles of this Advent season represent hope, peace and preparation, joy, and love, throughout this time of year, clothe us with your compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness so that we may further these gifts to others in order that they may know that we are Christians by our love. Let us be the tangible light and love of this Advent season that others may find light and love in their own lives. Help us to be the reflection of the Christ child, so that we are able to lead others to the very special Baby in the manger. We laud and honor Your name. To God be all the glory. Amen.

PRAYER BY JEFF WEBER AND CARL WODRICH

REJOICING ✶ DAY 34

FRIDAY · JANUARY 1

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Numbers 6:22-27**
- ☐ **Philippians 4:4-7**

> The priestly blessing places God's name, protection, grace, shining presence, and peace upon the people. Paul invites rejoicing and prayer, promising that God's peace will guard hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

SIT WITH

01 Which word of blessing—keeping, grace, peace, or God's shining presence—do you most need for the new year?

02 What anxiety can become prayer as you rejoice in the Lord and receive God's peace?

PRAYER

Father, with respect to this New Year, I am pensive and thankful! I think about the challenges in 2026: the lost friendships, the sleepless nights, and the thankless stress at work. I meditate on the fear, hate, and violence in this world, while attempting to prepare my children for it. I mourn those who will not get to see 2027, while I learn to make the most of it. In spite of all I face, I am still here and you are still... good. You are the one who blesses and keeps me. You are the one who provides me grace. You are my peace. As the storm of this life rages, I easily forget that you are my source, my protection, and rest. Thank you for reminding me that I can always bring my anxieties to you. You will take them and guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus!

PRAYER BY ROMAIN BENJAMIN

REJOICING DAY 35

SATURDAY · JANUARY 2

SCRIPTURE

☐ **Isaiah 60:1-3** ☐ **John 1:43-51**

> Isaiah calls God's people to rise and shine because divine glory draws nations toward the light. In John, Philip answers Jesus' call by inviting Nathanael to "come and see," and Jesus promises that faithful seeking will open into greater revelation.

SIT WITH

01 Where is God calling you to arise, shine, and reflect divine light?

02 Whom can you invite to "come and see" Jesus, and what keeps your heart open to greater things?

PRAYER

Creator God, Maker of Light and Giver of Love,

We rejoice with You on this new day, thankful as we start a brand new year. Following a season of miracles and hope, it is our prayer that we would see Your light shining into places where darkness still holds firm in our world.

May Your glory draw kings and nations to the hope we find in Your light. May others see Your light reflected in us and find themselves drawn to Your loving presence. May the world know the hope we find in the light of our walk with You, O Glorious God. Arise, shine, rejoice, for the Light has come! His name is Jesus! Call to our hearts, Great God, as You called to the early followers of Christ. From our everyday places, You see us and invite us to walk with You and know You. Show us glimpses of the great things you can do with lives that respond to Your call. Help us find courage to always say yes when You speak to our hearts. Give us hope to believe in times we find ourselves in darkness and doubt. And then may we live as people changed, rejoicing that we are seen and known by the God who is all and is in all!

We pray all things in the holy name of Jesus, who is the Light of the world! Amen.

PRAYER BY DUANE HORSTMAN

WEEK SIX



REVEALING

JANUARY 3 – 9

A PRAYER FOR ST. LUKE'S

God of light, you have always made yourself known in the quiet and the ordinary, and we ask you to reveal your next chapter for St. Luke's in your time. Give us eyes to see your faithfulness in every step, and keep our mission of helping all people find and give hope through Jesus Christ shining brightly. Amen.

Pray this each day this week as our church prepares for the transition in senior leadership.

REVEALING DAY 36

SUNDAY · JANUARY 3

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Jeremiah 23:5-6**
- ☐ **Matthew 2:1-6**

> The travelers ask for direction while others who possess information remain still. Knowing the story matters, but when it moves us toward Christ, it changes us.

SIT WITH

01 How does Jeremiah's promise of a righteous ruler shape your understanding of Jesus?

02 What can the magi and the leaders in Jerusalem teach you about seeking, recognizing, and responding to Christ?

PRAYER

Our most gracious God, we thank You for our many blessings which You give us daily. We are truly grateful for the gift of Your Son who came to earth in human form as a sacrifice, that we may become Your very own children. Help us to open our hearts and minds to rejoice in Your love. Move us to share Your love with others around us. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus, Amen.

PRAYER BY MARTHA SHIRLEY

REVEALING DAY 37

MONDAY · JANUARY 4

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Numbers 24:15-19**
- ☐ **Matthew 2:7-10**

> Not every voice along the road points toward life. Discernment listens carefully, tests motives, and keeps the light of Christ in view.

SIT WITH

01 What hope does the promised star and scepter awaken in you?

02 How can you keep following Christ's light with joy while discerning motives that may lead you away from him?

PRAYER

Thank You, Father, for providing a savior who was foretold to know You well and prepare a way for Your people. We often find ourselves searching for solutions that You have already foretold in our lives. Yet, we don't always follow the path laid before us, which You oftentimes make clear if we're carefully looking. Thank You for the example of those staying disciplined in their search and Your revelation guiding them to the Savior, that would mean so much to the world. The combination of hope and diligence provides a source of inspiration as we navigate seasons of uncertainty, while still holding faith that You are guiding our path. Thank You for Your blessings whether we can clearly see them at this moment or are in a phase of diligently finding the signs You've laid out for us to follow. May our enemies be put down and our hearts, minds and faith grow ever stronger as we trust in You. Amen.

PRAYER BY NIKI AND TYLER DOSSETT

REVEALING DAY 38

TUESDAY · JANUARY 5

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Haggai 2:7-9**
- ☐ **Matthew 2:11-12**

> The magi's journey ends in joy, worship, and generous offering. Encountering Christ opens both heart and hands.

SIT WITH

01 Where do you long for God's glory and peace to fill what feels shaken or incomplete?

02 What gift, worship, or changed direction can you offer after encountering Christ?

PRAYER

God of Light and Peace,

In a world that feels shaken, we come before You with hearts that are weary, anxious, and longing for connectedness. When we struggle to understand the changes around us, remind us that You are still with us, moving among us, and leading us toward Your vision of love and peace.

Help us trust that even in darkness, Your light has not been overcome. Open our eyes to see signs of hope, compassion, and goodness breaking through fear and division. Teach us to recognize Your presence in unexpected places and ordinary acts of kindness. Give us courage to love across differences, welcome the stranger, lift up the poor, and ease the suffering of those in need. Strengthen us to choose forgiveness over revenge, community over separation, and understanding over fear.

As the Magi followed the light, guide us to follow Christ's example. May we not lose heart when the path is difficult, but move forward in faith, trusting that Your Spirit is at work, drawing all creation toward Your peace.

Help us see, rejoice in, and participate in Your healing work today. Amen.

PRAYER BY LISA STEBBINS

REVEALING DAY 39

WEDNESDAY · JANUARY 6

SCRIPTURE

☐ **Isaiah 60:1-6** ☐ **Titus 3:4-7**

> Epiphany celebrates Christ revealed as light for all people. The magi return by another road; an encounter with Jesus gives us a new way forward.

SIT WITH

01 Where is Christ's light calling you to arise and shine for all people?

02 How does receiving salvation by God's mercy and grace reshape the road you will take from here?

PRAYER

Awesome creator,

Today, we celebrate the light that has come into the world. The light that draws people from near and far. The light that reminds us of Your love and shines through the darkness. Through these verses, You remind us that Your grace reaches beyond the communities we create. You call us to welcome everyone, especially in the unexpected places and people we may overlook.

God, we sometimes would rather keep the light to ourselves. It feels safe and comfortable. We build walls where You call us to build bridges. We draw lines where You invite us to make room and we decide who belongs before we see others as a beloved child of God.

As we celebrate the light of Christ, help us become people who reflect that light. May every room be a place where every person is welcomed, every story is honored, and every person can find a place to belong. May we continue to carry Your light into places of injustice, loneliness, fear, and division, trusting that darkness will not have the final word. Creator, keep revealing Yourself to us. Surprise us and lead us beyond our comfort zones and toward a love that is wider and more generous than we can ever imagine. In Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

PRAYER BY BECK BUCHANAN-SCHWANKE

REVEALING DAY 40

THURSDAY · JANUARY 7

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Psalm 72:1-11**
- ☐ **Romans 15:8-13**

> Psalm 72 envisions a ruler whose justice defends the needy and whose reign brings blessing among the nations. Paul proclaims that Christ confirms God's promises and gathers Jews and Gentiles into one hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

SIT WITH

01 What does Psalm 72 teach you about the justice and compassion of God's reign?

02 How can the hope, joy, and peace of Christ help you welcome people into St. Luke's?

PRAYER

God, help us to know best how to play our parts in Your Glorious Story. Guide us to places where justice is lacking and embolden us to make changes. Guard us from placing unnecessary negativity in a hurting world. Help us unlearn any understanding of You that does not accurately reflect Your mercy and righteousness. Give us holy curiosity about the experiences of others when we are divided. Show us where to best share our bounty with others. May we open our arms and hearts to one another in love, compassion, and overflowing hope to create a world of inclusion, where all are welcome in Your eternal reign.

PRAYER BY KATE COOK

REVEALING DAY 41

FRIDAY · JANUARY 8

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **1 Kings 10:1-10**
- ☐ **Colossians 2:1-3**

> The queen of Sheba travels far to test Solomon's wisdom and responds with wonder, blessing, and generous gifts. Colossians reveals that the deepest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ, drawing seekers beyond admiration into faith.

SIT WITH

01 What are you willing to seek with the queen of Sheba's persistence and openness?

02 How does knowing that wisdom's treasures are found in Christ shape the questions you bring to him?

PRAYER

Imminent savior,

In Your loving kindness You desire to be known, deeply, wholly. It's why You sent Your son to us so that we may see the real You, not at a distance or obscured through signs and wonders. No, You came so that we may know You as friends know one another. You came in the vulnerability, fully human in nature, so that we could relate and find solace in You.

Forgive us when we turn away from this beautiful, essential gift. Continue to call out to us as You have since before we were born. Continue to reach for us even when our back is turned. Forgive us when we turn away.

Grace us with deep curiosity so that we may open ourselves up to You. Make us feel safe so that we can reciprocate Your vulnerability, that we may know You as we are known to You. Open our hearts to Your love so we may reflect it in our families, friendships, and communities.

Thanks, oh Lord, for this beautiful gift of loving connection. Amen.

PRAYER BY NIKKI AND ZACH CHEESEMAN

REVEALING DAY 42

SATURDAY · JANUARY 9

SCRIPTURE

- ☐ **Isaiah 43:16-21**
- ☐ **Revelation 21:22-26**

> Isaiah recalls the God who makes a way through the sea, then urges the people to notice the new thing already springing forth. Revelation sees a city needing no sun because God's glory is its light and the Lamb is its lamp, drawing the nations into radiant hope.

SIT WITH

01 What new thing may God be bringing forth in you? How do you recognize it?

02 How can your life reflect the Lamb's light and help others walk toward God's glory?

PRAYER

Thank You, God, for meeting me here today as 2026 has come to a close and 2027 is just beginning. There are many unknowns in the days and months ahead of me. I pray that Your wisdom from this past year will guide me instead of fear. Help me to remember that You have been faithful, God, and You are always in control. Although I do not know what this new year holds, I know that You hold us in this new year. I know that it is safe to stop looking back and to keep my eyes on You. Let Your presence bring me peace, confidence, and strength in this new year. Help me to believe bigger and expect the impossible knowing that I will meet You there. When I feel unsure of what is next, steady my steps with Your wisdom. You are not waiting at the finish line; You are walking with me today and all days.

God, thank You for Your presence everywhere and every day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

PRAYER BY LOU MCELWAIN



“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”

ISAIAH 9:2

St. Luke’s United Methodist Church

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