

2025 Advent Devotions



**by Pastor Joshua
and Hannah Obermann**

A Message from The Obermenn



As we celebrate this Christmas season, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude. This time of year, we are reminded of how God's love shines through His people—and through each of you. Your dedication to sharing Jesus' love, your kindness, and your graciousness toward our family have been a bright light in our lives. Advent is a season of light—hope shining in the darkness, peace illuminating our hearts, joy glowing in anticipation, and love warming us from within. We are so grateful for the ways you embody God's light.

May this Christmas season fill your hearts with the same light you have so generously shared with us. May your homes glow with joy, your spirits shine with peace, and your lives radiate the love of Christ, the Light of the World. Thank you for walking with us, for encouraging us, and for being a beacon of God's grace.

With all our love,
Pastor, Hannah, Rhett, and Poppy Obermann

Welcome to Our Advent Devotions: A Season of Light

Advent is a special season of waiting, watching, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus. This year, our devotions focus on light. Just as a single candle pierces the darkness, God's light shines into even the most shadowed corners, guiding us, comforting us, and drawing us near.

One of the simplest ways to participate in Advent is by using an Advent wreath. Place in central location within your home. Each week, light the appropriate candle: the first purple candle represents hope, the second purple candle represents peace, the third pink candle represents joy, and the fourth purple candle represents love. The white Christ candle in the center is usually lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, reminding us of the arrival of Jesus, the Light of the World.

As you light the candle for the week, take time to read the devotion and reflect on the theme. You may choose to pray, sing, or discuss the theme with your family. Each candle reminds us that Christ's light grows in our hearts as we wait and prepare for His coming. As you journey through Advent, let the candles be a visual reminder that God's light is never distant. Each week, as another candle is lit, pause, reflect, and rejoice in the One whose light never fades.



Week One: Hope

Light One Purple Candle. This Candle represents hope. We know that the journey is long and as we stand at its beginning, we have hope in the glory at the journey's end.

Theme Verse:

“Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened and dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Think of a time when you needed a night light. What were you doing? Where you scared? Why or why not?

A young child lies in bed at night. The creak of a settling house brought him out of his sleep. As the old home continues to settle, creaks and bumps of old floor boards rubbing against old nails echo through the walls. The child sits up in bed and pulls the cover over their head. “Mom,” they scream. “I’m scared!”

Mom rushes down the hall. As soon as she gets to the child’s door, she reaches into the room and flips a light switch to its on position. Immediately the darkness vanishes. Not even a shadow is left to linger on the wall. The child slowly pulls down the covers from over their eyes. And instantly, they are greeted by the most welcome sight! Mom is standing in the door as clear as day ready to comfort and soothe away the fear. Even the sounds of an aging home are now no louder than a whisper.

In the same way, God is standing with us. He turned on the light. The light is His Son, Jesus. John 1:5 tells us that Jesus is “The light that shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it.” He is a night light. Not even one shadow can remain in His presence.

Yes, we have a lot to fear. The world is an every changing place. Satan is always at work to tempt us and lead us through trial and tribulation. But God is with us. He is present in our hearts. He is with us in His word. Jesus has made it clear that He does not leave you alone to fend for yourself. Rather He shines His light to scatter the darkness so that he can be the source of your strength.

Here is the light source, the Gospel. The never ending fuel of His light is the cross. On it, He suffered and died as the perfect sacrifice that covers all your sins. On it, He endured the devils power and succumbed even to death so that He could take your place and set you free from their grip. By which He proclaimed the victory over sin and death by rising to new and eternal life. All of this is His light. He shines this light on you.

Discussion Questions:

- What are some things that you fear?
- Where do you most clearly see God “turn on the light” for you?

Prayer:

Let us pray, Heavenly father take our fears away. Shine the light of your Gospel on us so that we may be strong and courageous in you. Amen.

Week Two: Peace

Light two purple candles. The second candle represent peace. As we continue along the path toward Christmas, we remember the quiet, steady light of God's peace that calms our hearts and guides our steps.

Theme Verse:

“And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

The second week of Advent has long been associated with peace. As the second candle is lit, the glow reminds us that God's promises move steadily toward fulfillment—one light at a time. Hope comes first, and then peace follows, settling our hearts and preparing us to receive Christ with trust rather than fear.

There's something comforting about turning on a flashlight in the dark. Even a small beam cuts through uncertainty. It shows where to place your feet. It reminds you that you are not helpless, and you are not alone. Darkness may surround you, but the light in your hand gives you direction and calm.

During Advent we lean into that same kind of promise. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, steps into a world shadowed by anxiety, conflict, and fear, and shines a steady, guiding light. His peace doesn't always remove the darkness around us—but it pierces it. His light doesn't depend on our strength but on His presence.

A flashlight does its best work when the power has gone out. In the same way, Christ's peace shows its strength when our lives feel unsettled. When our minds race at 2 a.m. with worries we can't solve... when relationships strain... when schedules overwhelm... when news headlines make us feel small and unsure... Jesus aims His light into those places and says, "I am with you." His peace isn't fragile or temporary. It is rooted in the One who holds all things together, the One Isaiah promised long before Bethlehem.

The peace Jesus gives is not simply the absence of trouble; it is the presence of Him. Just as you trust a flashlight to guide your next step, you are invited to trust that Christ is already shining ahead of you. His peace steadies your heart. His peace guards your mind. His peace leads you forward.

As you move through this Advent season, consider keeping a small flashlight nearby—on your desk, in your bag, or on your nightstand. Let it be a reminder that the Prince of Peace meets you in every moment, offering calm that the world cannot give and cannot take away.

Discussion Questions:

- What are some "dark places" in the world or in daily life where people especially need Christ's peace today?
- How can we carry His light into those areas?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, shine Your calming light into our hearts. When we feel overwhelmed, guide us step by step. When we are anxious, steady our thoughts. When the world feels dark, help us trust in Your unshakeable peace. Amen.

Week Three: Joy

Light two purple candles and one pink candle. The pink candle represents joy. We have entered the third week. We are more than half way there. There is joy knowing that our destination is just around the bend.

Theme Verse:

**“Rejoice in the Lord always! And again I say rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4**

Do you remember an exceptionally long journey? Where did you go? How long did it take? How joyous was its ending?

A man in a nice, yet semi-wrinkled, suit impatiently checks his watch in the lowest level of the airport near the baggage carousel. He is as tired as the dark circles under his eyes announce him to be. After he finally gets outside, he makes the mile long walk to his car and he heads home. The time is after midnight. He longs to be in bed.

The drive home is long and monotonous even still. The journey seems to be never ending. He thinks to himself, this is the last trip of this kind that I ever take! But then he breaks through the end of the tunnel. The bright and vibrant city lights seem to swallow up any darkness. The stadium is all lit up. The high rise buildings shine brighter than the stars in the sky. Each bridge twinkles against the night sky.



The man, for the first time since his plane landed, smiles. He takes in the joy of the city lights with one thing on his mind, he is finally home.

Although he knows that the final leg of the journey is still another 30 minutes or so in the car, he is well aware that the worst is over. The longest leg is behind him. He can feel himself press a little harder on the gas pedal. Soon he will be home. He smiles from ear to ear.

This third Sunday of Advent is like the final leg of the trip. The journey is long and exhausting. But by now, all the houses on the street are decked out in lights. Every window frames a lit tree shining within. The gifts are purchased and maybe even wrapped. The hardest leg of the journey is over. The celebration is just around the corner.

Every day is a new day. Every day is an opportunity to look at where we have been and remember that the longest leg of the journey is over. Christ is surely coming. His is near. There are signs all around us. The crosses hung in our homes and offices remind us that Jesus has accomplished the hard part. He suffered death on our behalf. He overcame the grave for our salvation. He is surely coming.

Paul reminds us then to rejoice! “Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I say rejoice!” We rejoice in the truth that Jesus has finished the journey for you and me. He is coming soon to bring us to everlasting life.

Discussion Questions:

- Philippians 4:4 calls us to rejoice always. Why do you think Paul emphasizes rejoicing even while waiting?
- How can rejoicing change the way we experience the journey?

Prayer:

Let us pray, Heavenly Father, Fill my heart with joy that I might praise you even in the darkness of sin and death. Let the light of your son’s birth be a sign to every Christian that our journey is almost at an end. Bring us to this day of greatest joy! Amen

Week Four: Love

Light Four Candles—three purple and one pink. This final candle represents love. Christ, the Light of the World, shines into our lives with unending love, calling us to share His warmth and presence with everyone around us.

Theme Verse:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” John 3:16–17

The fourth week of Advent is traditionally centered on love—the deep, steady, self-giving love of God made visible in Christ. By the time we reach this final candle, the wreath is nearly full of light, reminding us that God’s love completes every promise He has made. Hope, peace, and joy prepare our hearts, and love fulfills it all in the gift of Jesus.

Think of a cozy fireplace on a cold winter night. Long before you feel its warmth, you see the glow. The light pulls you in, inviting you to draw close. As you step near, the chill begins to fade. You can breathe easier. You rest a little deeper. Fireplaces don’t shout or demand attention—they simply shine and warm everything around them.

God's love works the same way. In John 3:16–17, we hear that God didn't send His Son to condemn us, to shame us, or to keep us at a distance. He came to draw us close. He came so that the world—every person, every heart, every story—might know the warmth of God's saving love. Jesus is the welcome glow in the cold. His presence radiates acceptance, forgiveness, and life.

A fireplace changes a room simply by being there. Christ changes our lives in the same quiet, steady way. His love warms the parts of us we thought were too cold, too broken, or too hidden. He brings light to the corners we tried to keep dim. He melts bitterness, softens fear, and fuels compassion. Advent invites us not just to look at that love from a distance but to come near—to rest in it, to be transformed by it.

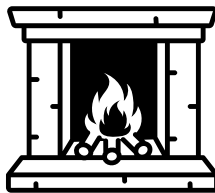
As you move through this week of Advent, consider pausing by a fireplace, a candle, or even a warm cup in your hands. Let the heat remind you of the God who came not to condemn but to save. Let the glow remind you of His love that shines into every darkness. Let the warmth remind you that in Christ, you are welcomed fully and forever.

Discussion Questions:

- Where are the “cold places” in your heart or in the world that especially need the warmth of God's love right now?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to us in love. Warm our hearts with Your presence. Draw us close when we feel distant. Melt away fear, shame, and bitterness, and fill us with Your compassion so we may reflect Your love to others. Amen.



Christmas Eve

Light Four Candles—three purple and one pink. Tonight is the final night before the coming of our Lord! Are you ready?

Theme Verse:

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’” Matthew 2:1–2

On Christmas Eve, we pause in the quiet anticipation of Jesus’ birth. The story in Matthew 2 reminds us of a brilliant star that appeared in the night sky, guiding the Magi to the newborn King. The star was not just a celestial wonder—it was a beacon pointing the way to God’s greatest gift. Tonight, we wait in a similar way, eyes lifted to the heavens, hearts ready to receive the Light of the World.

Think of the star of Bethlehem as a lighthouse shining in the darkness. For travelers on an unknown path, a single beam of light gives direction, calms fear, and restores confidence. The Magi followed that light across deserts and through uncertainty, trusting it would lead them to what they longed for most. On this quiet Christmas Eve, we, too, are invited to watch and wait for that light to shine in our lives.

The star reminds us that God meets us in ordinary nights with extraordinary light. His love, guidance, and peace shine into the dark corners of our world and our hearts. Even before the morning comes, the light of Christ is already breaking through, ready to illuminate every shadow.

As we prepare for Christmas morning, let us watch for the signs of God's presence—small moments of joy, hope, and love that point to the coming Savior. Just as the Magi followed the star, we are invited to follow the light of Jesus, drawing near to worship Him who comes to dwell among us, and to reflect His brightness in the world.

Discussion Questions:

- On Christmas Eve, we prepare for Jesus' birth. What are small ways you notice God's presence and light in everyday life?
- Just as the Magi shared their worship, how can we reflect the light of Christ to others during this Christmas season?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, as we await Your birth on this holy night, shine Your guiding light into our hearts. Help us watch, wait, and worship, and let Your presence fill our lives with hope, peace, and joy. Amen

Christmas Day

Light all the candles on the wreath. If you have a Christ candle in the center of your wreath, light that one too. Christmas is here. Merry Christmas! Your savior is born!

Theme Verse:

“And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were willed with fear.” (Luke 2:10)

Remember the most beautiful, magical, wonderful Christmas you can remember. What made it so special?

The little girl wakes up extra early on Christmas morning. For 364 days each year, she sleeps like a rock, impossible to wake up. She is almost always the last to arrive to the breakfast table, the last to be dressed, the last to be out the door, and she is usually late for school. With only one exception. On the morning belonging to Christmas, she wakes up before even the sun!

This Christmas is no exception. She wakes up and hustles to the family Christmas tree. It is dressed in glowing lights and special ornaments. But that which is underneath is what holds her attention. There is a brand new shiny bicycle. It is complete, not only with two wheels and handle bars as every bicycle should have, but on the handlebars is a basket and two pink tassels. It is the exact one she wanted! The one that she dreamed of! The girl runs down the hall and jumps up on mom and dad's king size bed.

She has no qualms about startling them awake. As her parents begrudgingly fall out of bed, she is already back to the Christmas tree ready to tear into her new presents and toys. Most especially, her bicycle. This will be a Christmas she will never forget.

I imagine the same is true for the shepherds at the first Christmas. They, alone in the fields watching their flocks, spent every evening with their sheep. They would not dare to leave them for any reason. They were the first to the field and the last to leave it. Always caring for their flocks. No exceptions.

But on this night, a new light appeared. The Angel of the Lord stood in their midst and the Glory of God shone around them. They with the angels lit up the night sky! Something new and amazing was taking place! Something new and amazing was happening in the fields near Bethlehem. And in its newness, they left their fields and their flocks. They ran to the town. They ran to the inn. They ran to stable behind it. There they found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes. He was lying in a manger. God's glory was upon him. This is what they had been waiting for. This is the messiah, the promised savior. The long expected one has finally come! They found him and they worshipped him. This was a Christmas they would never forget.

Each Christmas should be like this for us. Regardless of our earthly gifts, we have an unmistakable perfect gift, Jesus! He is come for you and me. He is perfect shining in glory! He who forgives sins and rescues from death clothes us in His glory too! So let us run, not too a tree or even a cradle, but to His throne! There He pours out His righteousness on all of us who believe in Him!

Merry Christmas!

Let us Pray, Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus in all of Your glory to shine on us with His love. Amen!



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