



# GRACE

ADVENT GUIDE

2021

# Grace Friends & Family,

At Grace it is often said that every movement of God in our lives begins with an invitation. Pause for a moment and let that sink in - God has personal invitations to extend to you!

This season resounds with invitations for all of us! As we count down the days to Christmas, Advent bids us to be intentional about creating interior silence, where there is room for Emmanuel: God with us.

We invite you to prioritize some time each week to sit quietly with this Advent Guide. Through scripture reading and thoughtful reflection, we will revisit the miraculous events that surrounded the birth of the Messiah. And, we will be reminded to live in a posture of wondrous expectation, preparing for Christ's second coming.

Make room for Emmanuel in the stillness of your heart this Advent and you will experience a familiar story anew and encounter God in remarkable ways.

On the journey with you,  
Team Grace

## ■ MORNING REFLECTIONS

MON - FRI | 7-8AM

Live on Facebook or In person in the Grace Chapel

Join Pastor Doug and Meg for a time of quiet personal reflection. Prayer and communion at 7:45AM.

## ■ HOW TO USE THIS ADVENT GUIDE

During the four weeks of Advent, this guide is intended to be used once per week as a personal devotional. Each week has a theme and scripture. Find a quiet space and spend some time reading the week's passage, interacting with the questions, and recording your thoughts and prayers. Most importantly, enjoy spending time with God.

*\*An Advent calendar for families is available from Children's Ministries.*



HOPE

## WEEK ONE

November 28 - December 4

The prophets of the Old Testament waited and yearned for the fullness of time when Messiah would come. They cultivated an attentive watchfulness for signs of the fulfillment of God’s promise. Advent invites us to ponder the extravagant love expressed in Christ’s first arrival when he became flesh and dwelt among us. And also to remember that he is coming again.

Like the prophets of old, with hearts of hope, we get to pay attention to God’s loving presence and activity all around us; passionately longing for our Savior to return.

***Read: Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36, Galatians 4:4***

What is God saying to you personally through these passages?

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Express your thoughts in a written prayer or by drawing a picture.



FAITH

## WEEK TWO

December 5 - December 11

Nearly four hundred years transpired between Malachi’s prophecy of the promised prophet and the angel Gabriel’s proclamation to Zechariah the priest. At first, Zechariah didn’t believe the message God sent to him. We can only imagine that such news would have been a lot to take in. Yet, God is trustworthy; what He sets into motion will take place.

Zechariah had more to learn about faith and in his tender mercy God provided a way. By the time his son was born, Zechariah was able to boldly proclaim the promises of God.

**Read: Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:18-20, 67-79, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6**

What is God saying to you personally through these passages?

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Express your thoughts in a written prayer or by drawing a picture.



# WEEK THREE

December 12 - December 18

The bible is about God and his boundless love for his people - a breathtaking story of creation and redemption. In reading the scriptures we get a close up view of complex relationships, victories and defeats, heartaches and celebrations. On a personal level, we can relate to the people and events in the bible; our lives are an echo of theirs.

God's narrative is still being written and each of us play a crucial role in the storyline. Throughout history and still today, in all of the twists and turns and highs and lows of life, God's invitation to rejoice in Him remains.

***Read: Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 3:7-18, Galatians 5:22-23, Philippians 4:4-7***

What is God saying to you personally through these passages?

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Express your thoughts in a written prayer or by drawing a picture.



PEACE

## WEEK FOUR

December 19 - December 24

God has much to say to us about peace. The pages of the Old and New Testaments are imbued with His heart for peace that is everlasting.

In this extraordinary time in our world and our culture, God’s plan to re-establish His shalom on earth continues to unfold. His invitation for us is to dwell secure in the quiet peace within us where we can be attentive to His love.

***Read: Micah 5:2-5, Luke 1:39-55; 2:8-20, Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10, John 14:27***

What is God saying to you personally through these passages?

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Express your thoughts in a written prayer or by drawing a picture.

## *Make Room for Emmanuel*

When I become overly-engaged in life's activities and allow them to crowd out space for essential prayer and reflection, help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When the pain of a world weary with war and violence threatens my hope and diminished my belief in the goodness of humanity, help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When I am asked to forgive another's failings or to let go of old hurts that cling stubbornly to my aggrieved self, help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When I give undue attention to myself, or when obsessive preoccupation with my own schedule tempts me to ignore the needs of others, help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When jealousy or resentment of another's good fortune takes away from my gratitude for all I have, help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When another's religion, skin color, sexual orientation, or personal beliefs differ from my own, help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When the heartache and stress of those dear to me saddens my spirit and suffocates my desire to bring joy to others, help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When peace seems far away from my deeper self, and crushing distress pays daily visits to my body, mind or spirit, help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

When the day is done and I look over the hours that have passed before I rest my head on the pillow of sleep, help me make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

Show me those places where you still need a welcome. Spur on my courage to open the door and invite you in. I want to make room for you in my heart, Emmanuel.

*- Joyce Rupp*

# GRACE



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