

**This week's Advent devotional is  
at the end of this Worship Guide!**



## Let Us Worship God!

December 5, 2021 — 10:30 AM  
Second Week of Advent

A Hybrid Worship Experience In-Person and Online

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough.

Worship Leader: Barbara Cain. Message: Rev. Dr. Kevin Yoho. Worship Production: Norris Clark.

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RIGHT PLACE!**

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Due to the case counts of the Covid-19 in our county, mask-wearing is required even for fully vaccinated worshippers. Let's be safe together! Thank you for maintaining alternate row seating and safe distancing between family groups. We provide hand sanitizer and masks. By *Telephone*: 929-205-6099. ID 882 3154 2428. Passcode 1714.

### GATHERING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Let's meet at the Table of Peace! Our in-person worshippers will be provided pre-packaged communion cups, which on-line worshippers may request by contacting the office. Or, you choose the bread. For the cup, you may use grape juice or wine, or water, remembering that Christ is the Living Water for all.



**STEP ONE:**  
*Open bottom seal. Take and eat.*

**STEP TWO:**  
*Open top seal. Take and drink.*

### WORSHIP PREVIEW

The Second Sunday of Advent tells us to prepare for something fantastic that is coming. News that's worthy of being shouted from the mountaintops, or posted to your Instagram account, or texted to a friend. There is nothing ordinary about the preparatory days of Advent that lead us to Christmas, literally "Christ's birth." We will flesh out God's story as we hear the prophet Malachi tell of a messenger to come. Five hundred years later, John the Baptizer fulfilled the prophecy and prepared the way for Jesus.

Christianity is a religion, a relationship with God through Christ, that is materialistic. It is not materialistic in a consumerism way, but uniquely different from all other religions in that it forever connects divinity with humanity. Jesus' incarnation transformed the transcendent into the imminent when the Word and Spirit became flesh and blood. Christmas tells of this incarnation, literally God's "fleshing out" when the infinite took finite form.

The first commandment strictly prohibits making representations of Almighty God. Moses knew that nobody could look upon the face of God and live. Because of Christ, now we can! But it's okay if God reveals an image of God, and God did just that in the incarnation of Jesus.

This week we proclaim that matter matters. There is no division between spirit and matter for those who follow Jesus. We do not somehow care about the spiritual life without caring about physical life, too. We cannot separate what God made inseparable in Jesus Christ. That's fantastic news!

Get ready as we proclaim God's story that a Jew from Nazareth who lived briefly, died violently, rose unexpectedly, and was God in the flesh, calls us to follow, transformed in mind, body, and spirit!

## MUSIC AND VIDEO PREVIEW

Our first hymn today is *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*. The current tune for this carol was composed by Mendelssohn, who himself was a Messianic Jew. It is from the second chorus of a cantata he wrote in 1840. The cantata commemorates Johann Gutenberg and the invention of the printing press. Mendelssohn strictly warned that his composition had a purely secular purpose. However, in 1856, long after both Wesley and Mendelssohn were dead, Dr. William Cummings ignored both of their wishes and joined the lyrics by Wesley with the music by Mendelssohn for the first time. As a result, the modern version of this beautiful, gospel-centered carol was born, and generations have been singing it ever since.

We close with *Go, Tell It On The Mountain*. The refrain theme comes from Old Testament passages in which praise to God for his acts of deliverance. Acclamations are shouted, both literally and metaphorically, from the mountaintops (Isa. 42:11). While the three stanzas tell the essence of the Christmas story, the refrain underscores the missionary impetus of the Christian church: "As you go, make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). The "Go, tell," which initially applied to the singers caroling on the university campus, signals us to leave the comfortable confines of Christian worship and "Go, tell" the message of Christ's redemption to the whole world.

**GREETING OF IN-PERSON WORSHIPPERS:** PASTOR KEVIN (10:24)

**COUNTDOWN TO WORSHIP** (10:24)

**PRELUDE:** JAYNE McDONOUGH (10:27)

**WELCOME:** PASTOR KEVIN (10:32)

**CALL TO WORSHIP (UNISON):** BARBARA CAIN (10:34)

**We worship God who created us to experience real life.  
God loves us, inhabits our world, and indwells our lives.  
We see God at work within ourselves, beyond ourselves,  
as we read Scripture and pray, worship and give, and as**

we serve others together, work for peace, and demonstrate God's love and peace. Let us worship God!

**GOD WELCOMES ALL (SING LIGHTLY):**

(1-10:34)

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong, and it never ends.



**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE:**

Today we light the candle of peace. Only Jesus, who came to earth to be our Prince of Peace, can give us the kind peace that overcomes the world. In Philippians 4, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (UNISON):**

Loving God, keep our hearts and minds open to the Good News as we learn, grow, and serve. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: MALACHI 3:1-4**

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

SOLO - MY CHRISTMAS PRAYER - BARBARA CAIN

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 3:1-6

(10:38)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.

Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.

And all people will see God’s salvation.”

# Matter Matters

Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 3:1-6



## MESSAGE: MATTER MATTERS!

PASTOR KEVIN

## PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION:

## MUSIC VIDEO LYRICS - HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING- HYMNAL #31

1. Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

2. Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail th'incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

(10:55)

God loves you and nothing separates you from God's love. In a spirit of gratitude and joy, let us pray together:

## PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

(10:55)

Good morning God of love and understanding. We gather here in this safe place to express our hope and joy and our fears, sadness, or pain. We come as we are seeking your peace. In every season of life, no matter our moods or feelings, give us confidence in your promises through the incredible gift of your son, Jesus. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION

## HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the name of Jesus Christ, the risen and rising Lord, God loves and forgives us to live like Christ and a life of faith, justice, and peace.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! AMEN.

## THE GLORIA (SING LIGHTLY)

(3) (10:57)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

## GIFTS OF GRATITUDE: GENERAL FUND AND DEACONS FUND

(11:04)

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## PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

## THE DOXOLOGY (SING LIGHTLY)

(5) (11:05)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above the heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## COMMUNITY NEWS:



Your complementary **Advent Devotional** is available now! Look for it with the online PDF Advent Worship Guide, or pick up your copy in the Narthex. This Advent can be the beginning of a great spiritual journey!



Happy Birthday to Barbara Keister (12/06)!



**Wreaths Across America is Saturday, December 18, 12 PM.** Plan to join us around the flags in our as we honor our veterans!



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!** Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a very special and inspiring candlelight worship experience, 6:00 PM in-person and online.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

(11:06)

God cares about us and loves us as we share our concerns with God and one another. We pray for others worldwide and nearby who need shelter, food, employment, healing, and wholeness in mind, body, and spirit. God, grant us peace as we embrace life's challenges in Christ's hope. We are praying for those suffering from Covid-19 and other illnesses, and those who serve in healthcare, emergency response, law enforcement, education, business, government, and the military.

Let us pray: Bob Hall, Tammy's aunt passed away. Jean Morgan husband pancreatic cancer., For Chuck McPherson, severe cold; Max & Ana Moran on the passing of her Mother from covid; Barbara Baker healing from her back surgery; Nancy's 6 yr old nephew, Ezras with covid; remember our veterans; Charles Keister, that he would feel

better and regain strength. For the friends and family of Lydia Richey on her passing; Continued healing for Fred, Lenore, and for all of us to be well and stay safe. We pray for John Stalford's relief from back pain. Max and Ana Moran in the loss of her Father and Grandmother to covid, Max in the loss of his Uncle; Nathalie Rodriguez, Hashimoto's disease.

## PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

(11:07)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom comes, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO ALL: COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE!

(11:08)

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you!

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: We join our voices with all creation and all ages to proclaim the glory of your name: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### COMMUNION (USE PRE-PACKAGED CUPS)

## COMMUNION MUSIC (VIDEO): BLESSED JESUS, LIVING BREAD (11:08)

Blessed Jesus, living Bread,  
By your self our souls are fed:  
Give us all the eyes to see  
All that you were sent to be.

"What is it?" old Israel cried,  
Ate it, and was satisfied.  
Now the same prolific hand  
Feeds them in a barren land.  
Not by this world's bread alone  
Can our life become full-grown,  
But by every word that goes  
From the mouth of God one grows.

On that table made of wood  
Lies our sacramental food:

"Take and eat and live" you call,  
"Here is life for each and all!"  
Ah, what welcome words you speak:  
Comfort to revive the weak,  
God's own wisdom, hope, and cheer  
Starving souls are blest to hear.

Word incarnate, Word divine,  
Word that comes in bread and wine:  
Love that we have come to know:  
Lord, to whom else shall we go?

We are in that crowd you fed  
With your blest, abundant Bread.  
Moved by every human care  
Bless the Bread we eat and share.

(11:08)

## FRESH EXPRESSION OF COMMUNITY

(11:09)

Once we were strangers, **Now we are neighbors.**  
Once we were strangers, **Now we are friends.**

## MUSIC HYMN: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN - HYMNAL #29

Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light  
Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

2. The shepherds feared and trembled

When lo above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed the Savior's birth  
Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

3. Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn  
Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

**BENEDICTION:** PASTOR KEVIN

(11:13)

**POSTLUDE:**

(11:14)

*Go in peace, and serve in joy! Thank you for being with us! We hope that you felt spiritually energized by joining us today. All of our worship services are available for viewing and sharing at any time [here](#). Please invite others to join you next week. We pray that you're staying safe wherever you are and wherever you go. May God bless you and those you love now and always.*

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1. *God Welcomes All*: CCLI # 549555
2. My Christmas Prayer; Bruce Carleton, Emily Elliott; CCLI #127449
3. Hark the Herald Angels Sing; Music- Felix Mendelssohn, text- Charles Wesley; are. Wm. Hay man Cummings; CCLI #27738
4. *Gloria* - public domain
5. *Doxology*: CCLI #42555
6. Blessed Jesus Living Bread: Text: Jaroslav Vajda, Tune: Traditional, Setting: Koine Music 2014.
7. Go Tell It On The Mountain: John W. Work, Jr.; words & music - public domain CCLI #29080

NIGHT WATCH  
2021 ADVENT DEVOTIONS | WEEK 3  
BY TERI McDOWELL OTT

# Rest



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> | EXODUS 20:8-11

I am not a night owl. When the sun disappears below the horizon, my body instinctively wants to slow down and stop. I've only pulled a couple of all-nighters in my life. One time was with friends in our last days of high school. We spread sleeping bags in my family's backyard, gorging on junk food and watching the sunrise. Another time was during a semester overseas in Spain. Staying up all night was par for the course in Madrid — night club lovers partied until 6 a.m., went straight to work and later took a long afternoon siesta. The friends I studied with convinced me to stay up with them on our last night together. I'll never forget the fun we had ... nor how awful I felt boarding my plane home the next morning.

Before electricity, the setting sun forced everyone to stop the day's activities. Nighttime is God's daily reminder: we are not meant for nonstop work. Lack of adequate rest short-circuits our body's healthy functioning, increases stress, impairs our thinking and disrupts our hormonal balance, which can lead to increased appetite and weight gain. We're learning more about the importance of a good night's sleep from

science. But God made rest an imperative from the beginning. The third commandment of the Decalogue is the longest, indicating its importance. We honor God with our rest. Failing to rest, or denying our need, is one way we "play God." After six days of labor, even God took a break.

Remembering the sabbath, remembering God's commandment to rest from our labor, is a sacred and faithful act. Rest is a call to humility, to remember that time continues when we stop: the sun sets, the moon rises, the night breaks into a new day with or without us. This daily rhythm reminds us of our equal status before God. Whether you are a landowner or a land worker, you require rest. The sabbath commandment is for servants and masters alike.

Jewish families welcome Shabbat on Friday nights by gathering around the table for a long, slow candlelit dinner. Family and friends enjoy quiet conversation, sing songs and recite prayers. Special food is saved to enjoy during this meal. Jews who struggle financially will deprive themselves all week in order to enjoy a little wine and delicious food on Shabbat.

Now, during Advent, practicing devotions prepares us to rest in the presence of God. So can small evening rituals. We sleep better if we take time to wind down, turn away from our digital screens, drink a warm glass of milk, meditate. Denying our body the rest it needs denies the natural rhythms of God's creation. Take the time to honor Advent rituals (lighting candles in prayer; singing hymns of hope and expectation; decorating our homes and sanctuaries) to rest better with God as we wait for Christmas.

*Eternal God, guide us to rest so we can live faithfully and full of hope for Christ's coming. Amen.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> | 1 KINGS 19:4-8

Elijah is on the run, fleeing Jezebel who wants to kill him for killing Baal's prophets. But after a day's journey Elijah is mentally and physically spent. He collapses under the only tree he can find and cries out to God, "It is enough." Now, exhaustion is Elijah's greatest enemy. He wants to die. Blessedly, he falls asleep and wakes to an angel who gives him food and drink. By these miracles of rest and replenishment, Elijah is able to carry on.

*Sustaining God, thank you for being present to us when we've had enough, when we can't go on. As this Advent arrives, we've had enough of the pandemic, of injustice, of divisiveness and division. It is all we can do to keep ourselves from opting out of all the struggles. May this Advent season feed and nourish us spiritually as we rest in the promise of Christ's coming. Amen.*

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> | PSALM 3:1-6

The psalmist laments those who rise against him, the “ten thousands of people” surrounding him. Yet the psalmist doesn’t succumb to pressure. He sleeps well because God serves as his shield. God answers his cries. God sustains the psalmist so he can get the rest he needs, even under stress.

Those who rise against us may not be enemies from without but enemies within. Doubts and insecurities circle our hearts and minds. Fear and anxiety wound our potential, hampering us from becoming who God created us to be. This Advent, meditate on the God who gives us rest, who understands our fully human and fallible nature, the God who risked being born into a world strewn with enemies without and within.

*Holy God, despite our stress, help us to rest as the psalmist rests this Advent. Calm our anxiety. Steady and slow our breathing. Comfort us with your Advent promise to be God-with-us. Amen.*

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> | PSALM 23

Psalm 23 is often read at graveside committals. Death is our ultimate rest. But there is comfort in this passage for the living too. The shepherd guides his sheep and ensures they rest well in green pastures, beside still waters. Enemies may be at our tables, but we rest in the assurance that God is present to protect us. Here in Advent, as we await the birth of the Christ child who will grow into our Good Shepherd, we anticipate the comfort, guidance and rest our Savior will provide.

*Good Shepherd, save us from the darkest valleys. Save us from evil. Save us from paths that do not lead to righteousness. With hopeful anticipation we await the birth of Christ; we await the miracle of a God incarnate, a God who loves us enough to provide us with goodness and mercy and the blessed rest that comes from being in your company. Amen.*

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> | PSALM 121

This psalm of ascent is sung by pilgrims making their way to worship, preparing their hearts by singing praise to a God who neither slumbers nor sleeps, a God who does not rest so we can.

As a child, and even sometimes as an adult, I’ve found it hard to fall asleep alone in the house. My imagination turns shadows into creepy monsters

and floorboard creaks become unwelcome footsteps. Alone at night, I’m conjuring the worst of my own fears. Psalm 121 offers exactly the help and hope I need: a God who stays awake so I can sleep, a guardian of both day and night.

*O God, our guardian, we can rest well knowing that you are keeping watch. As we prepare our hearts for Christ’s coming, we lift our eyes to the night sky this Advent to praise the God of heaven and earth, to praise the God who keeps watch on our behalf. Amen.*

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> | LUKE 21:37

Chapter 21 of Luke’s Gospel is full of foreboding lessons: Jerusalem and the Temple will be destroyed, the disciples will be persecuted, the signs of the Second Coming will be terrifying and earthshaking. After all this heavy teaching, Jesus slips away from the people to spend the night on the Mount of Olives. Here in Luke, we don’t know if Jesus spends this night praying or sleeping or just sitting in the darkness alone. But there is a clear separation between the work he does during the day and the renewal and replenishment he seeks at night.

*Holy God, you gave us Jesus as a model of what our lives can and should be like. Help us to follow him in our life’s work and in our need for rest. Help us separate our days and our nights so we can be renewed to serve you to the best of our ability. Amen.*

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> | JOHN 9:1-5

Stories of Jesus healing the blind are in all four Gospels. This healing ministry is a significant portion of his daytime work. But this work, as all occupations in Jesus’ day, stops at night. Certainly, the Son of God could heal at night too. The Light of the World doesn’t need the advantages of modern electricity to work in darkness. Yet, Jesus honors this natural boundary. He stops when others stop.

What work do we need to stop in Advent so we can be prepared to receive Christ this Christmas? What in our lives do we need to give a rest so we can be spiritually ready to receive our Savior?

*God of the sun and the moon, help us to order our days around your natural boundaries. Help us to stop our work when it is time so we can renew ourselves and ready ourselves for Christ this Advent. Amen.*

