

# HOPE-FULL LIVING

• *Daily Devotions for Living Life to the Fullest* •

Creative  
Communications  
Sample

*The Season of Advent*



WELCOME to  
**HOPE-FULL  
LIVING**

• *Daily Devotions for Living Life to the Fullest* •

Welcome to the season of Advent, a time of preparing for the Christmas to come and also a time to remember the Christmases past.

As we look back over our lives in our later years, our thoughts often turn to the warm embraces of gatherings with family, holiday traditions we had growing up, and special gifts we received at that special time of year.

These personal devotions, written by older adults for older adults, recall these precious moments and reflect on the significance of those heartfelt experiences even today.

Part of the joy of this season is being able to pass on those stories and teach the traditions from the past to future generations.

Above all, it is a time for us to remember and carry on the most precious message of all—that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, and that his birth in Bethlehem is as real to us now as it was two thousand years ago. Be a messenger for him!

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Sunday, the First Week of Advent

# Come on Down

*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

*John 10:10*

The word *Advent* means come or coming. Today we hear the word *come* when we watch the *Price Is Right*, as the announcer says, “Come on down!” God announced the good news that a Savior, his Son Jesus, would “Come on down!” to this earth. True to his promise, Jesus did come down. Jesus delivers an invitation to you, “Come to me.” Come to me and find out what kind of heavenly Father you have. Come to me and learn that your sins are forgiven. Come to me and find eternal life. Come to me to find purpose for living.

Jesus lives in us. He has come to us. We have his promise, “I will come again and you will come into my presence forever.” Jesus came down. He comes to us. He will come again for us. That is why we celebrate Advent.

*Thank you, Jesus, for coming to this earth and into my life. Come again soon! Amen.*

*Reflection: How will the three comings of Jesus make a difference in your life today?*

*Read: Matthew 28:5-7; Matthew 14:28-29*

*Ken Holdorf  
Frisco, TX*

Monday, the First Week of Advent

# Make Firm Feeble

## Knees

*Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not!”*

*Isaiah 35:3-4*

These words of the prophet may strike some of us as a bit too personal. Our joints are wearing out. However, it isn't just age and disease that makes us “weak kneed.” Sometimes it's a fearful heart. We tremble on account of what may lie ahead in our future.

“Fear not!” says the prophet. Why? “Behold, your God will come ... he will come and save you” (Isaiah 35:4). That's the promise of Advent. Our God kept that promise and came to us in Jesus. He died and rose again to save us. He continues to come with aid in time of need. He will come again to usher us into eternal life ... with new knees!

*Grant us strong faith and bold hearts, dear Jesus, as we await your coming. Amen.*

*Think: What is worrying you most this day?  
What do you need Jesus to do for you?*

*Read: Isaiah 35:1-10; Philippians 4:4-7*

*Ted Zimmerman  
Napa, CA*

Tuesday, the First Week of Advent

# Passing on the Light

*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

*Psalm 27:1*

At our church a family gathers around the Advent wreath in the chancel. The father holds his daughter as she extends her arm to light the first Advent candle, the candle of hope. On successive Sundays the candles of love, joy and peace are lit. On Christmas, the Christ candle in the center is lit. Jesus is the true light.

Advent reminds us that even as the father held his daughter in his arms to light the Advent candle, even so our heavenly Father holds us as we reach out to touch the lives of others. We touch them with the news of God's hope, love, joy and peace. That is our calling. What an honor that God has chosen us as his messengers! What an Advent blessing!

*Lord of Light, dispel the darkness in my life and in the lives of those with whom I share the good news of your love and the peace that it gives us. Amen.*

*Gift: Give a candle to someone as a reminder that Christ has called us out of darkness into his wonderful life. What peace he brings!*

*Read: 1 Peter 2:9-10*

*Leo Symmank  
Seabrook, TX*

# Wednesday, the First Week of Advent

## Most Wonderful Time of the Year

*In him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

*John 1:4*

I love Wednesday Advent worship services. Yes, I know it's dark at 7:00 p.m., it's cold and it may have been an exhausting day.

But Advent services give me an opportunity to do what I need to do—worship the Lord. The faces are familiar. These are headed to another birthday celebration for Christ. They've been there before. They return joyfully. Theirs is not chocolate cake with candles, but unleavened bread and wine. My brothers and sisters come to be encouraged and to encourage. Celebrate! We join together. We do not just go back to Bethlehem. We anticipate going forward to Jesus' Second Coming. We know that in Jesus we have life, not just temporally, but eternally. Why is it the most wonderful time of the year? It is not just about the now, but the forever. I'm lovin' it!

*Thank you, Lord, for Advent worship. Amen.*

*Observe: Enjoy the presence of your pastor and fellow congregational members. You will travel eternity together.*

*Read: Matthew 2:1-2; Psalm 96*

*Harry Edenfield  
Brownstown, MI*

Thursday, the First Week of Advent

# Waiting Room

*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word  
I hope.*

*Psalm 130:5*

Last Sunday our pastor told us to watch and wait during this Advent season. Does he have any idea how much time I spend waiting each week? Doctor's offices are the worst. I understand that doctors are busy people, but I am never there less than two hours. I am lucky if he spends 15 minutes with me.

Waiting for the Lord to come is a little different. During Advent, we mark the weeks until Christmas with our Advent wreath by adding a candle each week. On Christmas we light the white center candle and we know that the important day is here, when God came to earth in the form of a baby in a manger. The light has come into our world. That's worth waiting for!

*Lord, help me to be patient as I wait for the Baby in a manger and for him to come and take me home to be with him in heaven someday. Amen.*

*Count: How many hours did you spend waiting this week?*

*Read: 1 John 1:6-9*

*Margaret Hinchey  
Englewood, CO*

Friday, the First Week of Advent

# A Family Tradition

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.*

*Luke 1:46*

Lighting our Advent wreath every night with evening prayers and Scripture has been a long family tradition. I remember well when our children sat around the table waiting their turn to light a candle, read a verse from Scripture and offer a prayer.

What a wonderful and moving way to pause on our Advent journey and join Mary in proclaiming the greatness of the Lord. As the world rushes toward toys and trees, tinsel and turkey, shopping and spending, the Advent message moves into our souls to breathe in God's goodness, grace and generosity. The Advent wreath serves as a visible sign of God's impending arrival, a growing glow of his presence and the assurance of his many promises. Now that the children have left the nest, my wife and I continue the tradition. Won't you join us?

*Lord Jesus, bless our Advent wreath as sign of your unending love and your presence among us. Amen.*

*Experience:* As you light your Advent wreath each evening, read a verse, offer a prayer and conclude by singing or speaking an Advent hymn.

*Read:* Luke 1:46-55

*Walter M. Schoedel  
Webster Groves, MO*

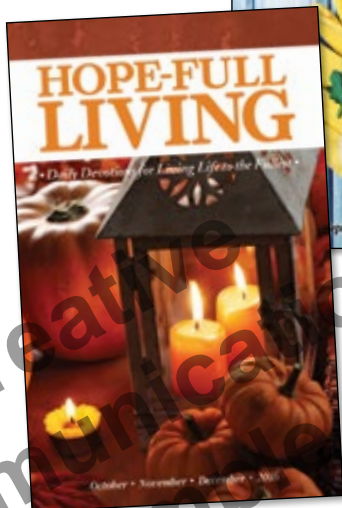


# HOPE-FULL LIVING

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The daily devotions in *Hope-Full Living* help to inspire seniors with the assurance that "This very day, I have a body, a mind, a spirit and a message—God's rejuvenating Gospel message to and through me—to share with my world, my friends and my Lord."

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