

DEVOTIONS FOR ADVENT

Together in Advent

Creative
Communications
Sample

TIM WESEMANN



*Together
in Advent*

*Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the
nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and
glory in your praise.*

PSALM 106:47

Introduction

We have so many tasks on our “to-do list,” especially during the Advent and Christmas seasons. There is so much to do that often the things that really matter get lost in the shuffle. That is where these devotions come in. Each week focuses on a task that should be on our lists in addition to the tasks that are already traditionally on them. In Week 1, we think about how we can both buy presents and be present for one another. We ponder how to send peace as we send Christmas cards in Week 2. In addition to sharing Christmas cookies, we contemplate ways to share joy with people around us during Week 3. In Week 4, we reflect on ways to wrap people in love in coordination with wrapping gifts for them. With each added task to our “to-do list,” we turn our attention away from materialism and the trappings of this holiday season and turn toward witness and service in the name of the Christ Child, who came not to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Be Present**Look, the Lamb of God!*

JOHN 1:36

Advent has arrived, and we're preparing for the arrival of Christ. We rejoice that Immanuel, God with us, is with us. And with Christ's promises always within reach we give thanks for opportunities to reach out to others with the love of the Promised One.

As Christ comes to be present in his world, among his people, and in his Church we discover the core of Advent and Christmas.

John pointed his disciples to Jesus as he passed by. He said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36).

Advent provides time for us to be present with Christ.

Two disciples heard John announcing Jesus as the Lamb of God, and they followed him. They asked Jesus where he was staying. Jesus invited them to come with him to find out (John 1:37-39).

Advent calls us to be present with others through Christ.

Andrew was one of the two who followed Jesus, and the first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him they had found the Messiah, Christ. Then Andrew brought his brother to Jesus (John 1:40-42).

Advent and Christmas aren't just about presents, but more about presence.

Advent King, we look forward to this journey, preparing for and rejoicing in your presence and gifts of life. Amen.

MONDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Wait, Don't Wait

Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

HEBREWS 9:28

In some way, waiting has been a way of life for God's people. First, they waited for the presence of the promised Savior in the world. And now, living beyond the manger and cross, we wait for Christ's return.

Not knowing when he will return, we feel an urgency to tell and live out God's story, so ...

- Don't wait to encourage your pastor and family in person or to pray for them while waiting at a stoplight.
- Don't wait to ask your waiter or waitress for prayer requests.
- Don't wait to offer a kind word to a stranger waiting in line.
- Don't wait to thank Jesus for removing the weight of your sin.
- Don't wait, wasting time, while you could be reading and studying Scripture.
- Don't wait to be present for someone weighted down by loneliness.
- And don't wait to pray Scripture, like ... (wait for it...)

*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope
(Psalm 130:5). Amen.*

TUESDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

The Lord Is Present

[Jacob said:] Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it.

GENESIS 28:16

How many times could we have said that, along with Jacob? We've become oblivious to the obvious. How often we attribute the Lord being present and working in our lives to luck, coincidence or our own doing?

Advent calls us to slow down and take time to recognize God's presence as we look for and look forward to his presence in Bethlehem, in his Word and Sacraments, and in his return. We pray the Spirit keeps us aware and our Savior forgives us when we fail. Surely the Lord is in this place.

Surely the Lord is ...

- in boardrooms, living rooms, hospital rooms;
- on the battlefield, flowering fields, and things that come out of left field;
- where we work out, eat out, and hang out; and
- in bread and wine, water and the Word, and Genesis through Revelation.

We pray we will realize his presence, give him thanks and glory, and allow others to see Christ in us and give him praise.

Triune God, keep us focused on your presence so we praise you for it daily. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Advent, Christmas Blues?

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace
in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may abound in hope.*

ROMANS 15:13

Look around and it appears the colors of the season are red and green. But if you look at those around you, you probably can't see that many are struggling through a blue Christmas.

This is a challenging time as memories (not all good) and emotions (not all good) are amplified. Hues of blues can be caused by a variety of situations. Missing someone who can't be present. A financial problem that may be presenting itself. A present relationship that is strained. A loved one who is presently dealing with a health problem.

The One who became flesh and dwelt among his people is still present, bringing hope and peace. And he is a sending God, calling us to be present for those struggling in the land of the blues.

Listen. Be attentive. Pray for a passion for compassion. Be present, on purpose. Go out of your way. Be creative in serving and generous with God's grace. Take time. Be patient. Love as Christ loves you. And oh, how he loves you and those you bless.

*Compassionate Savior, overwhelm those
overwhelmed with heartaches with presence,
promises and peace. And use me as you will. Amen.*

Together in Advent

Let's journey through Advent together, as the Spirit guides us, through this devotional. The season clamors for our time and energy. Let's take time to allow God's presence, life and love to impact our presence in the lives of others. This four-week devotional encourages us on the journey with others using the following themes:

WEEK 1

Be Present

WEEK 3

Share Joy

WEEK 2

Send Peace

WEEK 4

Wrap in Love

May God bless our journey through Advent together.

This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on [amazonkindle](#) and [nook](#).