

The background of the cover is a soft-focus winter scene. In the upper left, a bright star with a four-pointed crosshair shines against a dark blue sky. The lower half of the image shows a wooden manger filled with straw, set in a snowy field. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Heavenly Peace

DAILY PRAYERS *for* ADVENT

Sarah Thomas-Tracy

Introduction

The beautiful Season of Advent is perhaps, for many of us, the most difficult liturgical season to keep. Christmas decorations are on store shelves before we've even had a chance to finish our Halloween candy. So, how do we become a people of patience in a world that spins so fast? As the days in December become darker, how do we prepare ourselves for the promise of the Light of Christ? For some, preparing for the coming of Christ and preparing for Christmas compete for attention. And, all too often, Christmas preparations take precedence. May you find a few moments each day to spend with the prayers in this booklet. May they resonate with you, providing you the opportunity to prepare a place in your heart for the birth of Christ as you go about your Christmas preparations.

SARAH THOMAS-TRACY

FIRST SUNDAY *of* ADVENT

*Why, O LORD, do you make us
stray from your ways...*

ISAIAH 63:17

Lord God, our Beacon, be with me as I embark on the journey of Advent. Walk before me, I pray, leading the way so that I will not stray onto side paths that cry out so loudly, distracting me from my destination of the Incarnation. Walk beside me, that I may remain strong and rested during a season that can become overwrought with busyness. Walk behind me, guarding me from the anxiety and stress that often arrive unannounced during a season that is meant to be one of joy and peace. As we move forward together, may I keep my sight on the promise of Immanuel. **AMEN.**

MONDAY, FIRST WEEK of ADVENT

Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

MATTHEW 4:20

Lord God, our Strength, you called Peter, Andrew, James and John amid their ordinary day. These early disciples left the security of their jobs, the comfort of their homes, the contentment of the familiar to follow you.

During these days of Advent darkness, as I await the Light of Christ, give me the ears to hear your voice calling me to follow you. Give me the strength to leave the comfort of routine, the security of habits, the contentment of the familiar and enter into that land that you will show me. **AMEN.**

TUESDAY, FIRST WEEK *of* ADVENT

*The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid...*

ISAIAH 11:6

Lord God, our Prince of Peace, what a world Isaiah depicts! A world in which the wolf and the lamb are serenely resting together. A vision of such a perfect world! How I long for, pray for, this world. But a voice tells me that I will never see a time when the “wolves” of our world are not devouring the “lambs.” May I be as confident as Isaiah. Isaiah knows that the “Root of Jesse” will come, and he will bring a kingdom ruled with justice. Isaiah speaks with hope. Prince of Peace, may my hope be transformed into a hope placed in your peace.

AMEN.

WEDNESDAY, FIRST WEEK of ADVENT

Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them...

MATTHEW 15:30

Lord God, our Refuge, I place myself at your feet, trusting that you will heal me. Heal me of my muteness and give me a tongue that speaks out against injustice in my workplace. Heal me of my blindness and open my eyes to see the tears in the eyes of my family members. Heal me of my lameness and stretch out my arms to those I see on the streets. Most of all, heal my heart and fill it with your love so that I may bring your healing power to the mute, the blind, the lame and many others. **AMEN.**

THURSDAY, FIRST WEEK of ADVENT

And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

MATTHEW 7:26

Lord God, our Sure Foundation, I know too well that my foundation has been shaky at times. I hear your word, I even speak your word, but do not live your word. Beginning today, I pray, may I reflect on those moments when my foundation has been solid and I have acted on your word. I will remember that I smiled at a stranger, helped an elderly woman with her groceries, put aside my chores to listen to my child. May my memory of those moments assure me that I can build my life on your foundation, that you may reach others through me. **AMEN.**

In some ways, Advent can be anything but peaceful. The stress of the season is all around us. It can be increasingly difficult to find peace—peace while out in public, peace in the media, even peace in our homes can be elusive.

But, as people of faith, we know that we do not seek peace in vain. Advent invites us to prepare for the coming of the peace of Christ. With Scripture and prayer for each day of Advent, this booklet, *Heavenly Peace*, will accompany you as you travel through Advent and continue on, all the way to the manger and the celebration of Christmas.

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

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