

A SEASON OF **PEACE**



ADVENT DEVOTIONS FOR SENIORS

**Pray for the peace of
Jerusalem: “May they
prosper who love you.
Peace be within your
walls and security
within your towers.” For
the sake of my relatives
and friends I will say,
“Peace be within you.”**

PSALM 122:6-8

**FSC
Badge**

Introduction

My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. ❖ **ISAIAH 32:18**

The Advent season is all about welcoming Christ into your homes, whatever type of dwelling your home might be at this age and stage of your life. When you allow Christ to enter in to your home, this Heavenly Guest comes bringing peace.

What is that peace? It is being secure in the knowledge that Jesus is the Messiah, the One God has sent into the world to save us from our sins.

The peace of Christ also invokes a holy quietness, a calm that defies the chaos that often surrounds us and a stillness that acknowledges that only God is in ultimate control.

Peace means to find rest as well. Our nights might be sleepless and unsettled when we are not at peace—when we are worried or upset about something. We might suffer from physical challenges that steal our sleep as well. Let us seek rest for our bodies, minds and souls by placing our trust in Jesus.

My prayer is that the devotions in this booklet will help you to “sleep in heavenly peace” when you go to bed each night this Advent season, surrounded by the comfort and love of the coming Christ Child.

MARK ZIMMERMANN, editor

SUNDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Our Mantel of Peace

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ❖ ROMANS 1:7

The fireplace in our home has provided the setting for yearly family reflections and celebrations during Advent and Christmas. On the mantel, we have placed gold letters P-E-A-C-E, each including a hook at the bottom for a family stocking. We call it “Our Mantel of Peace.”

In the confusing world surrounding Mary’s pregnancy, Joseph felt anything but peaceful. However, the angel’s message in a dream brought Joseph comfort that the Holy Spirit was fulfilling God’s promise to bring lasting peace to the world through the birth of Jesus, the Savior. Joseph took Mary as his wife.

St. Paul begins his letter to the Romans with the words: “Grace to you and peace from God and our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” That peace through Jesus’ birth, death and resurrection anchors each of our journeys for time and eternity.

STEPHEN J. CARTER | Oakville, MO

THANKS, JESUS, *for lasting peace as we celebrate. Amen.*

SHARE: Share Christ’s peace with your family and friends this season.

READ: Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

MONDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Unchanging and Eternal

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. ✚ **LUKE 1:33**

As I unpacked my Christmas decorations from the storage bin last year, the beautiful “Noel” figure I got a few years ago from the Christmas Tree Shop came out in too many pieces to hot-glue back together. If you’re from the Northeast, you know the store I’m talking about: They sold unique and charming seasonal décor at incredibly reasonable prices. Sadly, they closed their doors a few years ago, like so many establishments have.

It was a reminder that like my kids growing up, my health declining and some friends moving away, life is fragile, and nothing on earth stays the same. That’s why Luke 1:33 is such a comfort.

No matter how things may fluctuate and change, we have an ever-constant God and his kingdom will never end. He will always send his Son to be born in our hearts every day that we are here on earth. He’ll also provide an eternal place for us to reside on the other side.

CLAIRE MCGARRY | Windham, NH

EVER-CONSTANT GOD, *as things fluctuate and change, remind me that you never do. Amen.*

RECALL: Recall Luke 1:33 in unsettling times.

READ: Psalm 145:10-13; Hebrews 13:8

TUESDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Peace Defined

...saying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace.

✦ JEREMIAH 6:14

Everyone wants peace. A family member shouts, "I wish that we could have some peace and quiet around here." A diplomat promises "peace in our time." Peace rallies form quickly. Some say a strong war machine guarantees peace. We sign peace treaties as nations. We desire "peace like a river." Everyone wants to define peace with their own terms.

Does God desire peace? The answer certainly is yes. Early in the Bible, Moses' brother Aaron speaks a blessing of peace. But God's peace passes human understanding. "It's complicated," as they say. Isaiah pairs peace with pain and suffering, for instance (Isaiah 53:5). We know there is no end to God's peace (Isaiah 9:7). Yet, Jesus says his peace may divide families (Matthew 10:34-39). Still, one overarching peace exists: "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

HARRY EDENFIELD | *Brownstown, MI*

BABE OF BETHLEHEM, *sanctify me in your peace, so I can be a peacemaker. Amen.*

LEARN: Our God is the only Source of all peace.

READ: Romans 5:1-11; Matthew 10:34-39

WEDNESDAY, THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Listen!

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ❖ JOHN 10:16

More than a dozen times in the Gospels, Jesus urges the disciples and the crowds to listen to him. To listen to Jesus and to serve him, we have to slow down and focus.

My women's Bible study has been studying Scripture about being equipped to be a disciple. For months, a woman I know casually has asked about how to tell her faith story. Apparently, she wasn't getting the answers she needed, because she kept asking. Then last week, I focused on what she was saying rather than preparing my response while she was still speaking. What she really wanted was to know what to do when family members who once were faithful Christians tell her they're atheists or angry with organized religion.

Finally, having truly heard her, I could give her the answer I think Jesus would have: Listen to their hurt. Ask open-ended questions. Offer to accompany them on their journey back to faith this Advent season.

MELANIE RIGNEY | Arlington, VA

LORD, OPEN MY EARS *to you and your people. Amen.*

LISTEN: Listen to a hurting friend.

READ: Luke 8:5-8; Proverbs 1:5

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Our lives should be full of peace, even in our later years. The daily devotions for older adults in this large-print edition highlight the message of having peace in the Lord always. The readings for each day of Advent help seniors reflect on the uplifting themes of Advent and encourage active responses that express the reason for our peace: Jesus. This rich and enlightening collection of Advent devotions reveals the wisdom and life experience of its various authors. Enjoy a fresh perspective each day.

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