

MORNING

New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us the desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to follow faithfully in the way of Jesus, this day and always. Amen.

PREPARE

Our theme for this Advent season is Journey to Bethlehem. Each morning we invite you to prepare for the journey—your journey to Bethlehem and your journey through this day—by reading and reflecting on the scripture passage for the week. (This means you will read the same scripture passage every morning for 7 days.)

Week 1: Ephesians 6:14-20

Week 3: Psalm 27:1-14

Week 2: John 14:1-7

Week 4: Malachi 3:1-4

REFLECT

1. As you prepare for the day ahead, what image(s) or word(s) from scripture do you want to remember and hold onto today?
2. What do you need to let go of, or where do you need to create more space—in your schedule, in your heart, in the ways you relate to others—in order for your Advent journey to be more faithful and fruitful?
3. Complete the sentence: *Today, I am preparing a place for Emmanuel—God with us—by ...*

LISTEN

Take 1 - 3 minutes to be in silence and to listen for God's still, small voice. Let us pray: *Dear God, Thank you for this new day, its beauty and its light. Thank you for my chance to begin again. Free me from the limitations of yesterday that I may become more fully a reflection of your radiance. Amen.*

MIDDAY

PRAY

Come, Holy Spirit. We pray that your fruit would be in us—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control—this day, and as we continue on our journey to Bethlehem. Amen.

SUSTAIN

To journey anywhere—physically, emotionally or spiritually—requires sustenance, patience, strength, and resiliency. At midday, we invite you to spend a few moments gaining sustenance for your journey by reflecting on any of the text(s) below. All texts may be easily found online.

Psalm 25; Psalm 85: 8-13; Psalm 126; Psalm 130

Prayers: *Prayer of Saint Francis & Disturb Us O Lord*, Desmond Tutu

Hymn: *Sometimes A Light Surprises*, William Cowper, 1779

Hymn: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, pre-9th century

Poems: *The Journey*, Mary Oliver &

The Winter Is Cold, Is Cold, Madeleine L'Engle

Article: Barbara Brown Taylor, *Time*: "In Praise of Darkness," April 17, 2014

REFLECT

1. What are you looking forward to with expectancy?
2. Where do you find—and where are you finding—nourishment for your journey?
3. Take a few moments to name 3-10 things that you are thankful for, right now in this moment.

LISTEN

Take 1 - 3 minutes to be in silence and to listen for God's still, small voice. Let us pray: *In our journeying we find you, God of the unexpected places. We find you there—in our doubts, as well as our certainties; in our fears, as well as our courage; in our questions, as well as our wonder; and in our turning to others for care. Help us to journey on, looking expectantly to find you. Amen.*

EVENING

PRAY

*Stay with us Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over.
(Luke 24:29)*

REST

Along the journey, we are called to rest—to rest from the relentless pace of the season, to rest from worry, anxiety, and our compulsive need to “be it all” and to “have it all.” Each evening, we invite you into a time of holy rest by closing your day with the scripture passage for the week. (This means you will read the same scripture passage each evening for 7 days.)

Week 1: Philippians 4:1-9

Week 3: Psalm 141:1-10

Week 2: Matthew 11:28-30

Week 4: Luke 1:8-20

REFLECT

1. What word or phrase from tonight’s scripture offers you the peace you are seeking right now?
2. What could you let go of today in order to experience more holy rest along your journey to Bethlehem?

LISTEN

Take 1 - 3 minutes to be in silence and to listen for God’s still, small voice. May Almighty God bless, preserve and keep us, this night and forever more. Let us pray: *Dear God, Thank you for this day. As I enter sleep, may these hours give me peace. May they bring healing to my mind and body. Please prepare me, during these hours of rest, for greater service to You. May the light that surrounds me, tomorrow shine through me and soften my heart. Thank you, Lord. Amen.*

Journey to Bethlehem

Advent & Christmas Events

2019

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

8:00, 9:30 & 11 a.m. | Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. | Sunday School
11 a.m. | OnPoint@1704 in Pickard Hall

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Wednesdays in Advent
6:30-7 p.m. | Davidson Chapel

ALSO JOIN US FOR

Churchwide Advent Bible Study with Christopher Edmonston
Monday, December 2, 9 & 16 | 6:00-7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Peace Along the Journey: Bearing Witness to Light in the Darkness
Thursday, December 5 | 6:00 p.m. | Davidson Chapel

Joy Gift: A WMPC Family Worship Tradition
Sunday, December 8 | 5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Advent Communion Service
Monday, December 9 | 11:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

Mary's Song: Music for Advent (works by J.S. Bach)
Sunday, December 15 | 3 p.m. | Sanctuary

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

3 & 4 p.m. | Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

6 & 11 p.m. | Sanctuary
6 p.m. | OnPoint@1704 in Pickard Hall

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OBSERVED

Sunday, December 29 | 8:00 & 10 a.m. | Sanctuary

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