Expecting a New World



2026 Daily Advent Prayer Guide

HARVEST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

An Advent Journey Together

This year, Harvest's Discipleship Team invites you to begin our Advent journey together through daily prayer. Each year, we anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ and reflect on the meaning of His life, death, and resurrection.

With Jesus' birth came the promise of a new world—one filled with hope, peace, joy, and love. Advent invites us to imagine that world, expect God to make it possible, and recognize the ways His kingdom is already taking shape around us.

Advent shapes us into people who eagerly anticipate God's movement in our lives and our world. But waiting doesn't mean sitting idly by! It means putting our faith into action as we partner with Christ to bring God's kingdom here on earth.

We hope these prayers stir something within you as we close this year and look toward the future. May you experience hope, peace, joy, and love as you pray each day.

Our first prayer comes from Isaiah 11.

Blessings,
Pastor Nick Lee

Scripture focus for the following prayers is Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord- and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips, he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Monday, November 30
Lord, you are making all things new and restoring all of creation. We, your people, ask that you reconcile all the world so we might live in your freedom. We look for the day when the upside-down world is made right side up. We anticipate the day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and no harm will come to any part of your creation. Bring your justice and righteousness to redeem all things. In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Tuesday, December 1
Lord, we look forward to the time when all the world knows you and lives in peace. In the meantime, remind us to continually seek your wisdom, understanding, and counsel, and help us to serve as peacemakers for those around us. Amen.

Wednesday, December 2
Dear Father, we long for the day when we can live surrounded by love and peace. Only when we fully let you govern our hearts can we truly be fair to others, actively help others with their needs, and love others as you have loved us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture focus for the following prayers is Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Thursday, December 3
Gracious God, your miracles are abundant. Like Mary, let us not be afraid, but trust in Your words, knowing that no word from God will ever fail. Fill our hearts with faith, courage and hope and help us surrender to Your will, just as Mary did. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Friday, December 4
Gracious God, in You all things are possible. In times of challenge or uncertainty, teach us to welcome Your will even when we do not fully understand Your plans. Send the Holy Spirit upon us so that we may have courage in our times of confusion and patience in our times of waiting. Help us find peace in Your promises. Create in us the same servant heart as Mary. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday, December 5
Lord, we hear you when you tell us not to be afraid. Help us answer as Mary did: See, we are the Lord's servants. While we aren't called to carry Jesus the same way that Mary did, we do hear the call to carry Jesus everywhere we go, so we ask that you will give us your strength and love as we live in community with all people. We pray that we will hear you speaking to us that same refrain: Fear Not! We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture focus for the following prayers is Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Monday, December 7
Lord, thank you for reminding us that our struggles and burdens do not have the final word in our lives--you do. Remove the obstacles, distractions and sin that keep us from walking more closely with You. May Your glory be revealed in and through our lives so that the world knows you are the Lord. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Tuesday, December 8
Our Dear Lord, let us trust in You. As we go through wilderness seasons in our life, we often create obstacles, that obstruct us from hearing You. Let us remove obstacles in our lives, so we can grow closer to You, and listen to Your will for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture focus for the following prayers is Luke 1:57-80

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. On the eight day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." They said to her, "there is no one among your relatives who has that name." Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him. His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us- to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

Wednesday, December 9
Holy Spirit, flame of love, merciful God, we praise you for fulfilling your covenant and bringing us salvation. Unite us as believers in Christ to serve you without fear, walk in holiness, and proclaim your saving grace. May Your light shine upon us, lead us from darkness into peace, and strengthen us to live as faithful witnesses of your redeeming love. In the powerful name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Thursday, December 10
Dear Lord, you made a covenant with Abraham long ago. Through that covenant you protect and provide for us. We are here to serve You. We're here to help others find salvation through the forgiveness of their sins. Let us give light to those who sit in darkness. Guide us to the path of peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture focus for the following prayers is Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool; the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Friday, December 11
God, you know the dry and weary places in our lives. Where we feel like a desert, we ask that You bring life. When we grow weak, strengthen us. When we are afraid, remind us that You are here to save us. Keep us from straying off your Holy path and guide us closer to You each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Saturday, December 12
Abba, our dear Father As we wait for Christ's coming, teach us to wait with patience, hope, and trust. While we wait, restore the broken, heal the suffering, and strengthen the weary. In our waiting, prepare our hearts to receive Your promise and rejoice in Your salvation. Through Jesus Christ, our coming king. Amen.

Scripture focus for the following prayers is Luke 1:39-56

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me- holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors." Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Monday, December 14
Lord God, give me the faith of Mary to believe what you have spoken will be accomplished. When doubt creeps in, remind me of Your absolute faithfulness to Your promises. Fill me with Your presence and encourage those around me. Help me to praise you, not just in time of comfort, but in every season of life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Tuesday, December 15
Dear Heavenly father, the one who kept his promises to David and Abraham, may you bless us all as you did your humble servant, Mary. And may you continue to extend your mercy to the humble and perform mighty deeds, bring down rulers from their thrones, and fill the hungry with good things. We pray in the name of your advent gift to us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture focus for the following prayers is Isaiah 7:10-16

Again, the Lord spoke to Ahaz, “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Wednesday December 16
Heavenly Father, when life’s storms gather and I grow anxious, remind me of your absolute sovereignty. Forgive me for seeking earthly alliances instead of resting in your promises. Quiet my fears of tomorrow. Help me to choose what is right, to reject what is wrong, and to feast upon your goodness and peace today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Thursday December 17
Dear Lord of Kings and of Isaiah, the one who gives us signs in our deepest depths and highest heights, we ask that we may trust you and see all that you choose to reveal to us, that we may know the joy of Immanuel, we pray in the name of the one who rejected the wrong and chose the right. Amen.

Scripture focus for the following prayers is Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, and angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Friday December 18
Dear Lord who gave us David and Abraham, we thank you for fulfilling your prophecy and ask that we understand fully the blessings you have given us through Joseph and Mary with the gift of your son. We pray in his name and know that You are with us. Amen.

Saturday December 19
Lord, when we are faced with unexpected and unpleasant circumstances, help us to remember to seek and listen to your guidance. When we feel we have been hurt or let down by others, may we not seek to punish or condemn, but rather to act with a spirit of love and compassion. Amen.

Scripture focus for the following prayers is Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Monday December 21
Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus your son to us. As we rejoice in his coming and the peace and justice that he will bring, may the light and counsel that he provides lead us to live as hopeful and faithful people of his kingdom as we await its full establishment. Amen.

Tuesday December 22
Heavenly Father, as you bring us into your light, let us rejoice in the birth of your son, Jesus Christ. May his light shine within our hearts and guide us each day. Help us to uphold your justice and righteousness, and to live with love, faith and compassion. May we remain faithful to your word and honor you forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture focus for the following prayers is Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Wednesday December 23
Heavenly Father, as we remember the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ, may we live in the joy, peace and hope that comes from You. May His love shine in our hearts and guide us each day, reminding us of the greatest gift You have given us. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Thursday December 24
As we celebrate the birth of your son, let us be like Mary, and store up the treasure of Jesus in our hearts. Let us be like the shepherds and share the good news of Jesus. Glory be to you, God, for giving us the gift of your son, Jesus. With love and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

Merry Christmas!

from the

Discipleship Team

at

HARVEST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH