

Hope Is Near

Advent 2024

10-minute devotions for families, households, and communities

HOPE IS NEAR

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10-minute Daily Devotional for Families

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About this Resource

The seasons of the Christian calendar are a wonderful opportunity to draw our focus toward our relationships with each other and God while being formed in the depth of our faith in ways that matter in the world.

This Advent Devotional has been created for multiple generations to come together daily to deepen in the invitations of Advent and in relationship together. Each day is intended to be about 10 minutes in length. You can choose a time of day that works best for your family, household, or community.

The theme, “Hope is Near” is an invitation to see the places where hope is already emerging among us even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world. Each day we reflect on where we have *seen* hope, and how we are invited to *be* hope to others in the days ahead.

There is sacred simplicity in the rhythm of this devotional on purpose. It is meant to be something simple we can do to draw our awareness to the meaning of the season, accessible for all ages, and habit forming in shaping a way of seeing God’s hope emerging and at work within and around us.

Each week, in addition to the daily devotion page, there will be an image and variation of Mary’s Magnificat, which is the central scriptural focus for the Advent season. This scripture invites us into God’s vision of hope for our lives, communities, and world.

Ideas for Use

We know that family and community come in sacred variety. Below are some ideas for how it might be used.

1. Meet with your family/household daily at a time that works best for everyone.
2. Consider drawing the circle wider on Sundays for the scripture focus of the week. Invite a family or families to journey with you by engaging the devotional individually during the week and then checking in with each other on Sundays to see how it's been going while using the guide to continue to reflect on the invitations of the season.
3. If you are part of a congregation or spiritual community, use the weekly scripture focus in your time of gathering and invite everyone in the community to use the devotion during the week.
4. If you live alone, are there others with whom you could have a nightly online meeting to engage the invitations of the devotion? Consider using Facetime, WhatsApp, or another video call app to invite grandchildren, neighbors, or friends into your daily devotion time. The questions provided can be used for individual journaling as well as conversation with others. Feel free to adapt for your circumstances.
5. We know that not everyone has access to an Advent candle wreath in their home, but if you do, consider lighting the candle each week when you engage the weekly scripture focus.
6. There are several ideas for a ritual to start each day. We recommend choosing one and sticking with it. Particularly for young children, this brings a sense of anticipation and consistency that can be meaningful for their participation.
7. You might consider printing out a devotional for each participant to have their own or share one as a family/household and record your responses together.

We know that our spiritualities are lived in many ways and in many places. We hope this devotional meets you in the sacred realities of wherever you are and whoever you are with. Wherever you are, *hope is near*.

Opening Ritual Suggestions:

Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer. Once you choose your ritual, commit to the same one each day during the Advent season.

- Light a candle.
- Ring a chime or singing bowl. (Invite kids to take turns.)
- Use an Advent calendar to locate yourselves in the season or light the candles in an Advent wreath.
- Take three deep breaths together.
- Sing a simple song. (Suggestion: "Into My Heart" CCS#573)

Prayer Wheel: The prayer wheel on the following page offers many ways to engage in prayer with all ages. Each day, you may land on a different prayer. This is intentionally designed to teach each other about the many ways of relating to God with our minds, hearts, bodies, and relationships. They are created to be accessible for the youngest among us but have the power to be meaningful for every age.

There are many ways to pray. You can dance, sing, speak, or be silent. Prayer is being in relationship with God and remembering that God is with us all the time.

Dance Prayer: Share a dance move that expresses to God how you are feeling today! After everyone shares their dance move, say “Amen” together!

Heart-Word Prayer: Take a moment to listen to the one word your heart is saying right now. Take turns sharing your word aloud. Close by saying, “Amen” together.

Hug Prayer: Give each other a hug from God. Take turns hugging each member of your household in the way you think God wants to hug them. (If someone doesn’t want a hug, that is ok. Open your arms wide and let them know that you are holding them close in your heart.) Close by saying, “Amen” together.

Gratitude Prayer: Start the prayer by saying, “God, today we are grateful for. . .” Each member of your household can share one thing they are grateful for today. Close by saying, “Amen” together.

Christ-In-You Prayer: Take turns telling each member of your household how you see Christ in them. Ex. “I see Christ in your kindness. I see Christ in your smile. I see Christ in you when you help me with my homework.” Close by saying, “Amen” together.

Presence Prayer: Set a timer for 30-60 seconds. Ask everyone to get quiet and just be present to each other and God in the silence. Just being with God and letting God be with us is enough sometimes.

Song Prayer: Choose a song to sing together as a prayer or invite everyone to sing (making up their own melody) whatever prayer phrase they want to contribute. They can be silly or serious. Close by singing, “Amen” together.

Choose Your Own Prayer: Each person can share their own style of prayer—spoken, silent, dance, song, whatever they most feel in the moment! Close by saying, “Amen” together.

Prayer

Wheel

Song Prayer

Choose a song to sing together as a prayer or invite everyone to sing (making up their own melody) whatever prayer phrase they want to contribute. They can be silly or serious. Close by singing, "Amen" together.

Gratitude Prayer

Start the prayer by saying, "God, today we are grateful for. . ." Each member of your household can share one thing they are grateful for today. Close by saying, "Amen" together.

Presence Prayer

Set a timer for 30-60 seconds. Ask everyone to get quiet and just be present to each other and God in the silence. Just being with God and letting God be with us is enough sometimes.

Heart-Word Prayer

Take a moment to listen to the one word your heart is saying right now. Take turns sharing your word aloud. Close by saying, "Amen" together.

Choose Your Own Prayer

Each person can share their own style of prayer—spoken, silent, dance, song, whatever they most feel in the moment! Close by saying, "Amen" together.

Christ-in-You Prayer

Take turns telling each member of your household how you see Christ in them. Ex. "I see Christ in your kindness. I see Christ in your smile. I see Christ in you when you help me with my homework." Close by saying, "Amen" together.

Hug Prayer

Give each other a hug from God. Take turns hugging each member of your household in the way you think God wants to hug them. (It's ok if someone doesn't want a hug. Open your arms wide and let them know you are holding them close in your heart.) Close by saying, "Amen" together.

Dance Prayer

Share a dance move that expresses to God how you are feeling today! After everyone shares their dance move, say "Amen" together!

Week 1

DAY 1: Sunday, December 1, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

LISTEN: *And Mary said, I'm bursting with God-news; I'm dancing the song of my Savior God. God took one good look at me, and look what happened— I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others. [God's] mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before [God]. . . [God] knocked tyrants off their high horses, pulled victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold. [God] embraced [the] chosen child, Israel; . . . remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high. It's exactly what [God] promised, beginning with Abraham and right up to now.*

—Luke 1:46-55 (*The MSG, adapted for inclusive language*)

LOOK: Prayerfully gaze at the image below that represents a modern version of Mary's Magnificat (our focus scripture). What do you see in the picture? What do you imagine Mary (pregnant with Jesus) is saying to the people in her community about God's hope? If you were in this image, where would you be?

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now— wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.



*"Mary Magnificat" by Laura James (laurajamesart.com). © 2015 by FutureChurch (futurechurch.org).
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DAY 2: Monday, December 2, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now— wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 3: Tuesday, December 3, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now— wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 4: Wednesday, December 4, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now— wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 5: Thursday, December 5, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now— wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 6: Friday, December 6, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now— wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 7: Saturday, December 7, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now— wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

Week 2

DAY 8: Sunday, December 8, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

LISTEN:

My soul is alive with thoughts of God.
What a wonder, Their liberating works.
Though the world has been harsh to me,
God has shown me kindness,
seen my worth,
and called me to courage.
Surely, those who come after me will call me
blessed.
Even when my heart weighs heavy with grief,
still, so does hope abide with me.
Holy is the One who makes it so.
From generation to generation,
Love's Mercy is freely handed out;
none are beyond the borders of
God's transforming compassion.
The power of God is revealed
among those who labor for justice.
They humble the arrogant.
They turn unjust thrones into dust.
Their Wisdom is revealed in
the lives and truths of those on the margins.

God is a feast for the hungry.
God is the great redistributor of wealth and
resources.
God is the ceasing of excessive and
destructive production
that all the earth might rest.
Through exiles and enslavement,
famines and wars,
hurricanes and gun violence,
God is a companion in loss,
a deliverer from evil,
a lover whose touch restores.
This is the promise They made
to my ancestors,
to me,
to all the creatures and creations,
now and yet coming,
and in this promise,
I find my strength.
Come, Great Healer,
and be with us.

—Rev. M Jade Kaiser, *Enfleshed: Spiritual Nourishment for Collective Liberation*,
<https://enfleshed.com/liturgy/magnificat/>

LOOK: Prayerfully gaze at the image below that represents a modern version of Mary's Magnificat (our focus scripture). What do you see in the picture? What do you imagine Mary (pregnant with Jesus) is saying to the people in her community about God's hope? What does this image make you feel?

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now— wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.



“Mary’s Song” © Lauren Wright Pittman, lewpstudio.com. Used with permission.

DAY 9: Monday, December 9, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 10: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 11: Wednesday, December 11, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 12: Thursday, December 12, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 13: Friday, December 13, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 14: Saturday, December 14, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

Week 3

DAY 15: Sunday, December 15, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

LISTEN:

My soul enlarges as I glimpse the work of the Holy One.
My spirit dances in joy through God who restores and makes whole.
The blessings of my life will ripple through every generation.
God's power is revealed in acts of justice for the most vulnerable.
The proud and rich, who exploit and oppress, are humbled in the presence of divine love.
All who suffer, all who are outcast and marginalized will know God's mercy.
This is a justice song, a liberation song, from the hope forming within.
God's dream of shalom for all creation is for now and forever!

—Katie Harmon-McLaughlin, inclusive adaptation of Luke 1:46-55.

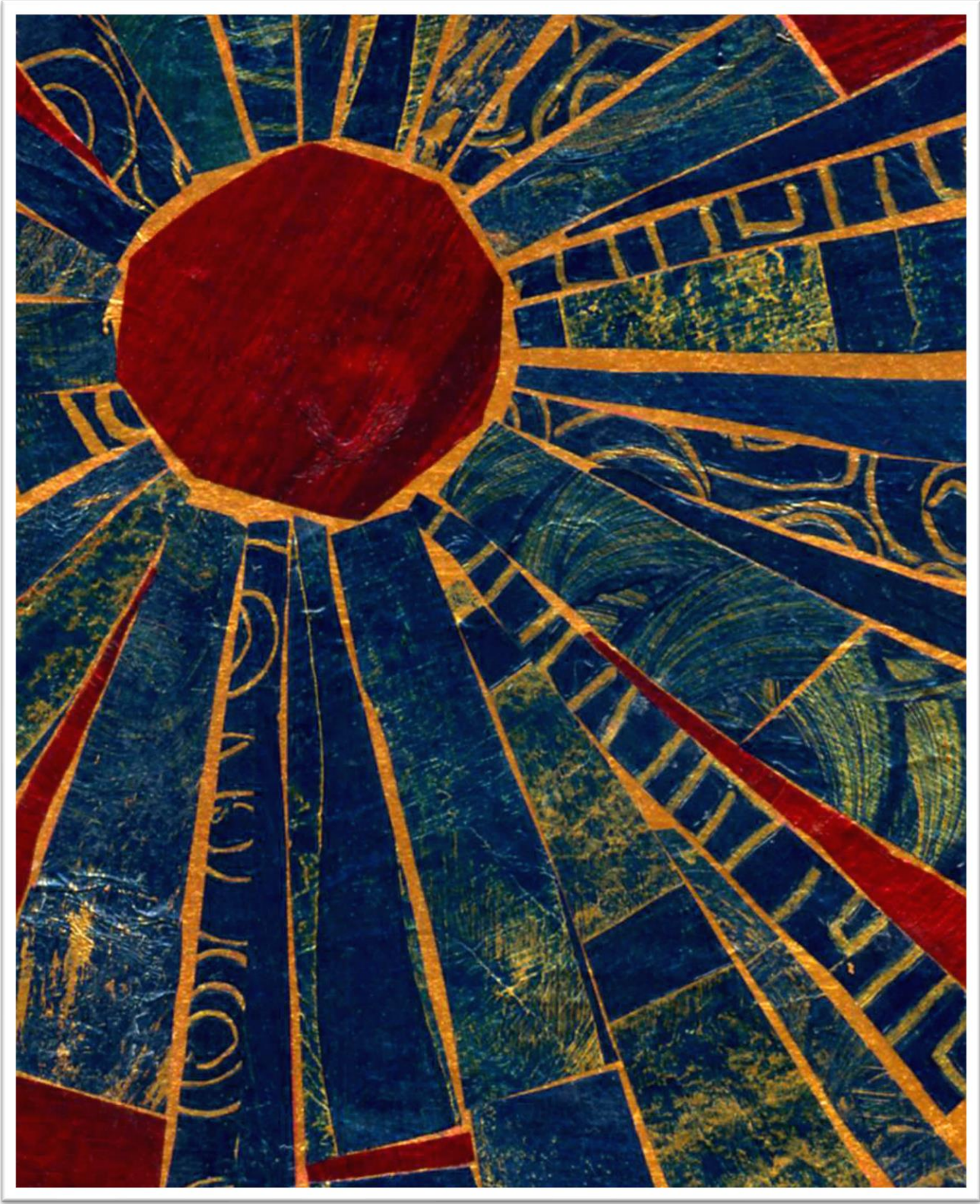
LOOK: Prayerfully gaze at the image below that represents a modern version of Mary's Magnificat (our focus scripture). What do you see in the picture? What do you imagine Mary (pregnant with Jesus) is saying to the people in her community about God's hope? What captures your attention in this image?

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now— wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.



Magnifcat © Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com. Used with permission.

DAY 16: Monday, December 16, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 17: Tuesday, December 17, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 18: Wednesday, December 18, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 19: Thursday, December 19, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 20: Friday, December 20, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 21: Saturday, December 21, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

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Week 4

DAY 22: Sunday, December 22, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

LISTEN: Write your own version of the Magnificat by filling in the blanks:

My soul rejoices at _____.

God's mercy is for _____.

God shows strength and compassion by _____.

God fills the _____ with _____.

God's promise of _____ will last forever.

LOOK: Prayerfully gaze at the image below that represents Mary's Magnificat (our focus scripture). What do you see in the picture? What do you imagine Mary (pregnant with Jesus) is saying to the people in her community about God's hope? What captures your attention in this image?

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now— wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

Share your responses aloud and ask someone to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

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Used with permission.*

DAY 23: Monday, December 23, 2024

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

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PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 24: Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now– wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

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PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.

DAY 25: Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Christmas Day

OPEN: Use a simple family ritual to begin your time of daily prayer.
If you are using an Advent Wreath, you can light the Christ candle today!

ASK: *When did you feel hope today?*

Share your responses aloud and ask one family member to be the recorder to draw or write what they hear others saying. OR take turns writing or drawing a response on the page.

BREATHE: The season of Advent reminds us that even as we wait for the birth of Christ in our lives and world, *God is always with us*. Right here, right now— wherever we are and with the ones we love. Take a deep breath and breathe in the presence of God together.

RESPOND: *How can you bring hope to others tomorrow?*

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PRAY: Have someone close their eyes and spin their finger around the prayer wheel at the front of the devotional. Whichever prayer they land on when they open their eyes is the one you are invited to use that day. OR you can simply close your time together with a brief prayer offered by a member of your household.