

**Trinity Presbyterian Church U.S.A Inc.**

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**Trinity Presbyterian Church**

**2022 Advent Devotional**

***"From Generation to Generation"***



*For all things came into being through him, and without him, not one thing came into being.*

*And what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

*A Sanctified Art LLC written by: rev. sarah speed*

Welcome to our 17th issue of **Trinity's Advent Devotional**. Since 2005, the Christian Education Committee has provided the congregation each year with a collection of devotions written by members and friend of Trinity Presbyterian Church. Our Theme for this year is "From Generation to Generation." This theme comes from A Sanctified Art and we will be following these theme in our worship and in our virtual Bible Studies.



From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go.

*Artfully yours, The Sanctified Art Creative Team*

*Thank you to all of our contributors who shared their stories of testimony to God's love in life's challenges and successes. Your words help make our Advent Devotional meaningful and with purpose.*

*May these stories, these songs, these poems and these pictures help you to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.*

***In Christ, The Faith Formation Committee***

## Thank You to our 2022 Advent Devotional Writers

***1 Thessalonians 2: "The more we live as a testimony to Christ, the more our love will grow for each other and the world. We will grow the Kingdom of God that way. "***

Brooke Tucker

Bill Butler

Carol Graff

Carol Carson

Del Smith

Jan Markiewicz

Rev. Jeff Beebe

Judy Spurrell

Lois Settles

Kelli Jebbia

Libbie Butler

Martha Gioielli

Maudie Parker

Tracy Martin

Uma Banerjee

The committee wishes to thank Kelli Jebbia for editing and putting together the 2022 Advent Devotional

December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve Message

***John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, the hopeless, hateful, disappointed, and unsettled world, that God sent the Son into the world, and whoever believes in Him will have not perish, but everlasting life.”***

This day we are reminded that we have journeyed through these days of Advent once again, much like the generations before us did, time and time again. Each year, it is a necessary journey for us, individually and as a community of faith, time and time again, as we begin what we have come to know, or are learning, to be the liturgical, or church year. Throughout Advent we have been prompted to remember once again, or perhaps are discovering for the first time, a God who claims us, loves us, journeys with us, and calls us each by name, like those who have journeyed before us, those who journey with us now, and those who will journey after us. Made aware of the hope, love, joy, and peace, that the ever-present Christ Child brings to a hopeless hateful disappointed unsettled world. Like those before us we to are called to share the hope, love, joy, and peace, remembering once again, or perhaps learning for the first time, so that *from generation to generation* might come to know and experience Emanuel, God with us.

***Prayer: God, even though we may seem at times to be hopeless, hateful, disappointed, and unsettled, you claim us, and love us and offer us hope, love, joy, and peace. On this day, remind us once again that without the hope, love, joy, and peace you offer our lives would be hopeless, hateful, disappointed, and unsettled. Amen.***

Rev Jeff Beebe

November 27, 2022

***First Sunday of Advent 2022***

***There's Room for Every Story***

I asked God—

what about my fingernail-biting habit or the way I leave all the cabinets open in the kitchen?

What about the way I can be dramatic, drumming up a fight, only to hand out apologies like souvenirs?

What about the way I second-guess myself, let shame drive, or stay quiet when I have something to say?

What about the way I chase accomplishments like a dog with a bone?

What about the doubt, or the fact that I'm terrible at prayer and cannot help but yawn during church?



*Wilderness Blossom by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman*

*Inspired by Isaiah 35:1-10 | Digital*

*What about? What about? What about?*

My baggage might be too big for the van.

But then God called me by my first and middle name, which always means business, and said:

Who told you that you were too much? Sugar, there is so much room for you here.

So that's when I grabbed a seat and we hit the road and I knew right then that the rumors were true.

*There is room. There is room. There is room.*



*The Sanctified Art Creative Team*

November 28, 2022

### Sharing Our Faith

***Psalm 71:18 “Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, Oh God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come.”***

As I reflect on this scripture, I remember those who shared their love of our Lord as I grew in faith. So many devoted Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, Pastors and choir leaders nurtured my spiritual growth over the years. My parents were very instrumental in encouraging me as I sometimes struggled with my journey. This helped me to see the importance of sharing my faith journey with others both young and old.

One of the ways I was able to share God's love and power was the opportunity to spend a week, for several years, with our high school youth group, serving the people in need in the Dominican Republic. We had so many emotional moments, as we were reminded that God is in control and helps us in our mission to serve others with love and care. It was such a privilege and blessing to work with these incredible children of God.

It is also a blessing to remember all who shared their faith with us and we are called to share that faith with all generations. Knowing that God's love is unconditional offers comfort and hope for everyone in the days to come. We remember this as we celebrate this season of Advent.

***Prayer: Dear Lord, let us remember those who encouraged us to grow closer to you. Help us to share your love with everyone we meet. Amen***

Judy Spurrell

December 23, 2022

### Treasures from the Memories

***Psalm 119:111: “Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.”***

Last year we traveled to Putnam Valley, NY to spend Christmas with our older daughter and her husband's family. The next morning we looked outside to see the ground covered with snow! What a treat for us particularly since we did not have to drive anywhere. Christmas morning, our son-in-law's mother and sister joined us. After a grand opening of presents, we enjoyed a Christmas feast of clam chowder and warm bread. Then my son-in-law's mother suggested we each share a favorite Christmas memory. With three generations of family there, we had such a grand sharing of memories: special foods, bubble lights and icicles on the tree, the different ways and times when gifts could be opened.

The grandfather remembered when the horses had to be brought out of the barn to tow the car home because the snow was so deep on Christmas Eve. One grandmother told how dinner would not start until plates for shut-ins were prepared and sent out to those families. Children remembered favorite toys or sledding or skating on Christmas day. What was supposed to last one hour, lasted much longer, but no one cared. Treasures from the memories of different generations were shared. The children gained new insights into grandparent's and aunt's youth. The adults got a view of the best memories of the children. All these memories were treats to treasure for many years. These lessons from the past were brought into the light, still valuable, still special; dusted off and not forgotten.

***Prayer: We thank you for the gift of Christmas and the blessing of memories of the special traditions of our families. Help us to learn and grow from these traditions for they bring us closer to you as we once again celebrate the anniversary of your Son's birth. Amen***

Carol Corson

December 22, 2022



# Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour is born



To hear music,  
photo snap using  
smart phone

November 29, 2022

## Godchildren

**Mark 12:28-31** One of the teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Which of the commands is more important?” Jesus answered, “The most important command is this: ‘Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord, Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second command is this: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ There are no command more important than these.”

In 2000 I was asked to be a Godmother to my grandchild Jonas and four years later to my granddaughter Isabella (Bella). The request brought swelled up emotions in me. Never being blessed with children I felt immediately part of the family I married into. My introductions to family and friends had a clear path of my role with these children within my marriage.

Twenty-two years later this responsibility of teaching my godchildren about God has not been a path that one would think. It's not through a youth program at church, nor a mission trip or a youth church retreat. What was given to me was showing love through my works and deeds. As Mark 12:38-31 says, through my soul, my mind, and my strength, I will show God's everlasting love to the generation before me.

God meets us right where we are and in how we are. My faith encourages me to continue to be that example of showing God's love to various generations. Not just to my godchildren, but to all of my family. For the sole purpose of glorifying God to all of humankind.

***Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to use my time to glorify you with those that come across my path. May my actions, my words, and my money be used for your glory. Amen***

Kelli Jebbia

November 30, 2022



How God Shows Up | Lisle Gwynn Garrity Silk  
painting with digital drawing and collage

### ***There's room for every story***

In Matthew's genealogy (Matt. 1:1-17), each name contains a story, threading together a lineage that leads to Christ.

In the space below, record the story of someone who came before you—a relative or friend—who changed your life.

### ***Journal Prompt***

December 21, 2022

### **Grandparents**

***Psalms 100:5 "For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."***

Growing up in Indiana I was very fortunate to have 2 sets of grandparents that were very active in my life. Mom was a single parent, but I had 4 additional 'older adults' who were responsible for making me who I am today. I was blessed that all four of my grandparents were excellent role models for me to be around. All were very hard working and kindhearted people. I knew they loved me and supported me and wanted the best for me. I remember eating at my grandparents homes and also at many great picnics. We always prayed before each meal. Whenever they were with me at bedtime, we would say our prayers together. My mom's dad was like a father to me. We shared a love of baseball together. He would always listen to me and talk to me until his death, right before I became pregnant with Brooke. All 4 were Christians, but rarely were we ever all in church worshipping together.

Mom was insistent that my sister and I attend church and Sunday school each week and I was very involved with my youth group. At our church, I had so many wonderful role models too. Our congregation was made up of all ages and I feel so very very blessed that I was able to enjoy being with and feeling the presence of God while in their presence. The memories I have today of my grandparents and my previous church family just touch my soul. It's amazing how different I am in so many ways from my grandparents, my youth church family, and my current Trinity church family. There is one major thing we all have in common; Our love of God and his son Jesus. It's been said that it takes a village to raise a child and I can honestly say that I was raised by an Amazing mom and a wonderful village of Christian people. I am still enjoying that village today.

***Prayer: Thank you my Trinity church family for your kindness, love and support to me and also my family. May God watch over all of us this Advent season. I pray we can continue to support and encourage each other in the years to come with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Our God is an awesome God! Amen***

Love and Hugs, Libbie Butler

December 20, 2022

### **Sabbath in the Kitchen** ***Decorated Christmas Cookies***

As a child, Christmastime always promised us a tradition that was an otherwise forbidden activity: the chance to play with our food. My grandmother's kitchen table became an art studio splattered with flour and sprinkles when, each year, she retrieved the metal tin filled with Christmas-themed cookie cutters, and we spent the afternoon crafting edible Christmas treats. To my knowledge, we never made these cookies from scratch because my grandmother was admittedly not much of a cook, and because pre-made convenience allowed us to devote ourselves to the art of cookie sprinkles. We would spend hours rolling the dough, clapping our hands into flour clouds, and discovering how many red and green sugar crystals could fit on reindeer-shaped patties.



And so, for this Sabbath Saturday recipe, I give you permission to focus less on baking and more on playing. I hope you'll buy premade sugar cookie dough, get your kitchen messy, and decorate Christmas cookies with little humans leading the way.

ingredients • Store-bought, pre-made sugar cookie dough (or bake from scratch if the word "pre-made" makes you wince) • Sprinkles—as many kinds and colors as possible • Store-bought icing instructions

With a rolling pin, flatten the cookie dough in between handfuls of flour. Use cookie cutters to cut the dough into fun shapes—or use a knife to freehand Christmas-themed creations. Sprinkle abundantly. Bake until your kitchen swells with sweetness.

*A family recipe shared by Lisle Gwynn Garrity \* Sanctified Art*

December 1, 2022

### **A New Day**

***Daniel 4:3 “How great are his signs! And how mighty are his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.”***

For many years I have taken a walk first thing in the morning. If I wait, it's too easy to talk myself out of it, so I go before I have time to think. But every morning when I step out of my front door, I am glad to be walking. My walk time is also my prayer time, and my prayer always begins, “Thank You for a beautiful morning”, and they are always beautiful.

Our beautiful world is in turmoil; a war that could become much worse, a pandemic that just won't go away, deep political divisions in our nation, natural disasters, violence, and a seriously threatened environment. But when has our world not been in turmoil? We are entering the season of Advent, and “advent” means “coming”. In this season we remember the first coming of Our Lord and look forward to His coming again. A new morning is something like Advent; a coming, a new day of hope and promise. In spite of all of the pain and sorrow we see in the world, I find it hard to be pessimistic as the sun is rising on a new day. It should be equally hard to be pessimistic in Advent, the coming, when we look forward with hope and promise.

***Prayer: Bless this day, the blank page newly turned. May its story, once written, bring only glory to Your Name.***

Del Smith

December 2, 2022

### This Little Light of Mine

**John 1:5** *"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."*

Hands down my favorite part of Advent is the end; Christmas Eve candlelight service. Holding the candle in my hands, waiting in darkness. Then slowly as one candle is lit from another, the room takes on a soft warm glow. Finally, the light it comes to me. I wait as my wick catches the flame, pausing for a moment before passing the light to another. As the final verse of silent night begins to play, I raise my hand up to heaven along with everyone else in the room. To this day I haven't been able to sing through a verse without getting a little choked up. I can only imagine what this looks like, feels like, and sounds like in heaven. I imagine God and all the angels together soaking up all this love that is being poured up in God's name and all praise to God.

This advent I pray that you follow God's light, wait in anticipation each week as we light another candle. Wait as we drive out the darkness one light at a time while remembering that Jesus' greatest commandment is love God and love others.

**Prayer:** *Rest for a moment in God's light. Gently close your eyes and take a few deep breaths. Imagine God's light in your heart center. Keep breathing as you feel God's light and love flowing through your veins. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.*

**Namaste** (God's light in me sees God's light in you) Amen

Brooke Tucker

December 19, 2022

### Where do you fit into God's Picture of Love

**Ephesians 4:1-32**

This year's theme "From Generations to Generations" stumped me. Maybe because it hits a bit close to home by asking me to reflect on my place in the picture God is creating to share His love.

As we seek unity as a community of faith, God gives each of us gifts. Over time as we learn what our gifts are, and we hone our skills to better use them, our place (s) in the picture may change as we seek to serve God. As we join with others and their gifts, the Holy Spirit builds the church to be the presence of God. Even though the church at Ephesus had its problems, Paul writes to us across time to assist us with understanding the purpose of the church and to strengthen and encourage us. The advice Paul offers is specific for building up the church. How we live today is important and influences the future! So, ***bind yourselves together in peace... Hold fast to the Truth you know of Jesus Christ.. Do not be influenced or seek to influence by lies... Throw off your former way of life.. Do not let angry control you...Instead be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving and giving... Work to make the body of Christ whole... Use the help of the Holy Spirit.***

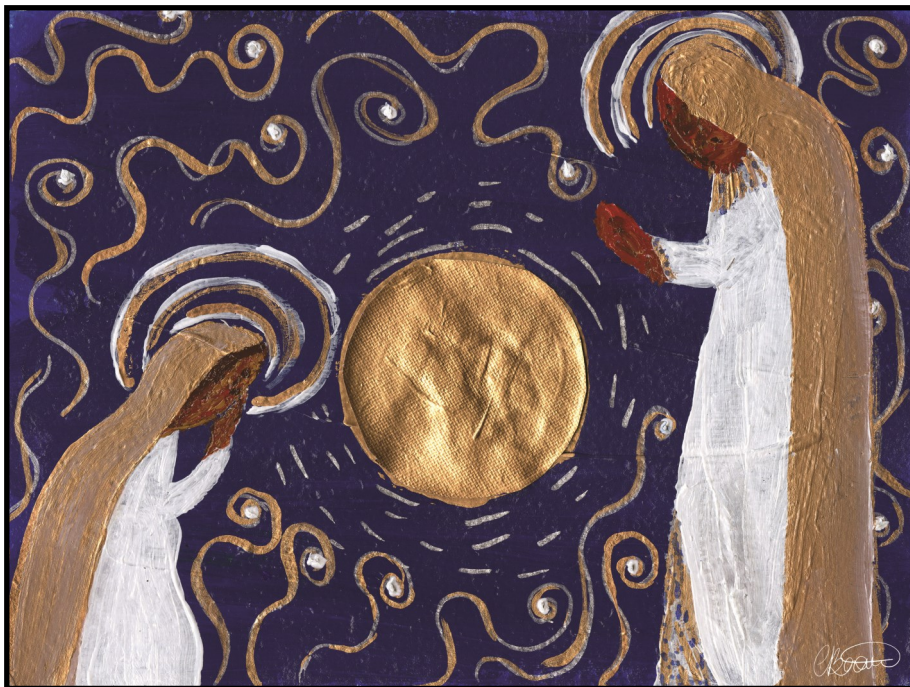
*Questions for individual and corporate reflection:* Where is our place in the picture that is God's love? Are we using the Holy Spirit to renew our thoughts and attitudes as we build up the church? How are we making the Presence of God known in Palm Coast?

**Prayer:** *Come, Lord Jesus, Come into our hearts today and help us recognize what you have done for us with your saving love in Jesus. Grant that we might grow in our understanding of your gifts to us and how we might use them for your benefit. Help us to accept your gift of the Holy Spirit in our midst and understand our own place in the generations. Lord, here we are. Use us. In His Name, Amen*

Martha Gioielli

December 18 2022

4th Sunday of Advent 2022



*Mary's Golden Annunciation | Carmelle Beaugelin Acrylic, gilding paint, canvas collage on handmade reclaimed paper*

Mary's Golden Annunciation explores the moment of encounter between Mary and the angelic messenger. This unusual encounter may have been startling to young Mary—a soon-to-be teen bride turned, possibly, unwed mother. Yet, with holy bravery in the face of communal isolation, she accepts the call to be a surrogate mother to a son who is to be the savior of her people and the son of God.

**Pray:** Breathe deeply as you gaze upon the image on the left. Imagine placing yourself in this scene. What do you see? How do you feel? Get quiet and still, offering a silent or spoken prayer to God.

December 3, 2022



### A Blessing for the Seekers

*Blessed are you who turn your face up to the sky, who open your arms to feel the wind, who notice all the things that we should notice. Blessed are you who are fluent in wonder and familiar with awe. Blessed are you who, even now, dream dreams, who have not lost hope, who swear the glass is still half-full. Blessed are you who plant trees and sing the harmony, who tell the children how this world can be magic. Blessed are you who walk and seek and turn over every stone, pointing out all the corners and colors that God lives in. Blessed are you. Amen.*

*Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed*



December 4, 2022

**2nd Sunday of Advent 2022**

Don't Loose Sight

**Luke 21:36** *"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."*

As we turned back our clocks we hope an extra hour of rest will help us focus better the next day. Many require a second reminder to acknowledge the change from rest to work; reminders are essential to improve our focus and quality of life. Simple reminders act as guiding posts to ground our faith in God's commands. Successful living becomes the byproduct of honoring God's loving-kindness, obedience through worship, and living peaceably among humans.

We often think that thanking God in response to what God has done is easier than thanking God in advance. It is not so. We often take the things we receive from God for granted –like the 9 people with skin ailments in Luke's gospel, who were healed by Jesus. The nine were not bad people but just that they were thankful for the gift instead of the Giver of that gift. Also, they took the healing for granted. Having an attitude of gratitude is a choice we make, be thankful daily, and for everything we receive from the hands of God.

God is coming to us now. Therefore, don't lose sight of God's sighting in the world, now. For the first Sunday in Advent, the key verse was Luke 21:36 -Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. "Our task as believers and the church is to practice *Mindfulness* or *Watchfulness*. God is coming to us even now and we must practice mindfulness.

The word advent simply means coming and so the readings point to the idea of the second coming of Jesus and how believers must act until He comes again. However, if you look at the readings carefully, Luke is not trying to scare us with his predictions instead he wants to tell us that even as we wait for the second coming, God is coming to us now. Therefore, don't lose sight of God's sighting in the world, now.

**Prayer:** *Make every effort to keep yourself united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. Ephesians 4:3*

Uma Ruth Banerjee

December 17,

And the People will Praise the Lord

**Psalm 102:18** *"This shall be written for the generations to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord."*

He came. He hurt no one. He lived a clean life. He loved and respected everyone. He healed. He brought people back from death. He chose twelve men to be his disciples. He defied death. He died after horrible torture on a cross even though he had done nothing wrong. After three days he arose again. And he lives forever.

His disciples absolutely believed he was the Messiah, or they would not have spent the rest of their lives teaching about him. He taught to clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. What could possibly be wrong with that? There is no other faith based on a man who gave his life that others might live. There is no other faith where the teacher has died and arisen again.

Magnificent music has been written and played in praise to him. Great works of art and sculpture have been created in praise to him. Literature of all sorts has been written inspired by him.

Hospitals, orphanages, homes for the disabled, aged, and homeless and rehabilitation centers have been built because of him. Simple places of worship and magnificent architecturally challenging churches have housed an unbelievable number of people of all colors, races, and ages to worship Him.

Lives have been changed because of him. Many miracles have come about through prayers said to him. He does not win you with power but allows you freedom to choose. And the people praise the Lord. What can everyone give in return? Love, and as Mother Teresa said, "I will never understand all the good that a simple smile can accomplish." Share your smile this season.

**Prayer:** *Our Heavenly Father, what a magnificent gift you gave us in your son. So very grateful. Amen.*

Lois Settles

December 16, 2022

***God meets us in our Fear***

When the angel Gabriel comes to Mary, she is perplexed and confused—and no doubt, afraid. And yet, the angel's news is: "Do not be afraid."

In the space below, reflect on a time when you were afraid, but said yes to an invitation anyway .....



***Journal Prompt***

December 5, 2022

**From Generation to Generation - As I've Seen It**

***Psalm 145:4 - "One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."***

One of the biggest challenges when growing up is determining who exactly were and are good role models for us to follow. Some of my ancestors were more prominent in the business world; some had more well-known names; some names were well known locally, but not globally. Which ones were practicing Christians and which were just going through the motions?

Ultimately, we are who we are because of who they were. When doing family research, I discovered many contradictions. Trying to read people in 100 year old pictures is frustrating. We can see family traits in some photos, but we are remiss if we assume the personalities are the same or even similar. Is the preacher side of the family more religious or more Christian than the military side? In my family, the great-great grandmother who married the Presbyterian minister had been reared Methodist, and the one who had been reared Presbyterian married, had children, and reared them Episcopalian. We moved frequently when I was growing up and we attended many different churches. The Presbyterian church in Virginia is the one I was reborn in, and the one our sons grew up in.

I read my Bible every day, as did my mother, and her mother, and her mother, as far back as I can remember. That is the basis for my personal understanding of who God is in my life.

***Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for allowing our imperfections to shape who we are.***

Maudie Parker

December 6, 2022

### Teach Your Children Well

***Malachi 4: 6 “He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”***

When my daughter got a divorce I wasn't very surprised or worried. She is a smart and capable woman. Two years later when she quit her good job at a world renowned newspaper I was dumbfounded. We weren't on the same page, and I wondered why she would turn her life upside down. She began a new job, coincidentally on the very first day of the Covid-19 quarantine. All corporate offices were closed and everyone was forced to work from home. Ordinary life had drastically changed.

Fast forward two and a half years and she is happy and successful in work and in a new marriage with a baby. She followed her heart and trusted in the decisions she was making. We all need to give it up to God and work as hard as we can to thrive in whatever situation we land in.

The Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young song “Teach Your Children” asks us to lead our children by modeling the very best ways to live life and get along with one another. Then the song cleverly flips the refrain to “Teach your Parents”, reminding us that “we” also have a lot to learn from the younger generation. The values we hold on to (maybe a little too tightly) may need to be re-examined. Jesus wants each generation to learn from one another. Respect the past, but work towards the dream of peace and authentic community.

***Dear God, Help us to be more aware of differences of perspective. Let us understand that our ways aren't the only ways; that young people have valid ways to function in God's creation, that God is always in the works as long as we invite him into our hearts. Amen***

Tracy Martin

December 15, 2022

### PRAISE the LORD!

***Psalms 102:18 This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall Praise the LORD.***

*A blessing for which we are eternally thankful is the family from which we come! We develop, grow and are who we become through our learning experiences some shared from generation to generation.*

*They begin in our family interactions, adventures and day-to-day living. The Psalms passage really spoke to me from having generations of family celebrations of PRAISE to our LORD. Christmas celebrations praise the precious gift of Jesus. At Christmas there are so many reminders for us to praise the Lord. Display our treasured keepsakes. We hear our favorite hymns or songs. We rewatch those favorite movies that kindle the Christmas spirit for us.*

*Think for yourself about some that you have shared or used in your own home or office. These things give us an opportunity to share with the people we have created and those that God puts in our paths to share and show them our praise to the LORD! My favorite is the Manger Scene. As a child, my Mommy's Methodist church (in a farming community with many family members) whose older members would convince, encourage or bribe their grandchildren come to dress up and create a manger scene representing each part of the story with homemade costumes, props and surely there would be real hay and manger, music and scripture.*

*I still have the little display that my mother created with us. She found a craft kit which we had to put together the molds, pour the plaster into them, wait for them to dry, carefully remove them from the mold and then we got to paint them with beautiful gold paint. Sadly a few of those pieces have not made it through the years. I still put out the pieces I have. (I think the shepherd may even have turned into Joseph.)*

*Wekiva Presbyterian in Longwood was the church that helped me teach my children about praising the LORD. Their Youth Group would recreate this same scene on the front lawn close to a very busy street. So many passersby would park, bring their car passengers, stand, sit, walk around, recognize a neighbor or classmate and enjoy the music playing, the “yute” silently in place, praising God for the gift of Jesus. We are blessed by the sharing of these traditions from generation to generation. I am looking forward to experiencing the continuation of these celebrations with the future generation.*

***Prayer: Reflect on the ways you have shared your praise. Share this praise of our LORD memory! Who might learn, remember or create a new praise from what you share?***

By Jan Markiewicz

December 14, 2022

## Angels Among Us

### ***Luke 2: 8-14***

Most of you know the Fantasy Lights Festival held in Palm Coast each Christmas was something my daughter, Tiffany, dreamed we would be able to have here in her home town. The year after she went to heaven, with the help of our angel Tiffany, God, and The Rotary Club of Flagler County, we made this dream a reality. There is no doubt in my mind that Tiffany watches over this event and that she brings her angel friends to experience the love that this event brings to families. Here is one story from the event that makes me know that angels are among us.

One night as I was volunteering to set up for the Fantasy Lights Festival crowd, I had just set out the cash box for donations and remembered I forgot something that was on the other side of the park. A person appeared at the front entrance at that time and asked if a certain person named Carl, which was his brother-in-law, was there. I responded saying, "Yes, he is right over there setting up for a musical performance". At which time, knowing this man is probably trustworthy, being he was related to a member of my Rotary Club, I asked if he would mind watching the cash box for a few minutes while I went back to get the things I had forgotten to bring out. The man replied that he would be glad to do that. Upon returning, thankfully, the man was still there with the cash box. Then I thanked him and saw the man walking off.

Later that evening, Carl, who had been setting up for the performance, stopped by the front gate where I was still greeting people as they walked in, and I asked him if his brother-in-law ever caught up with him tonight? Carl's face suddenly expressed an emotion of astonishment. He said, "That's impossible! My brother-in-law died almost a year ago!" Upon his description of his brother-in-law's visible features to me, I told him that the description matched perfectly.

I hope you get the time to go to the Fantasy Lights Festival, experience the joy of this season, and know that God and his angels are with you this Advent season surrounding you with their love.

***Prayer: Thank you God for all the saints that have gone before us. Shine their lights brightly this Advent Season so that we can be guided to the true Joy that you provide. Amen.***

Bill Butler

December 7, 2022

## Joyful Noise

***Psalm 100: "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness, come before him with joyful songs."***

When I walk into church each Sunday I am making a joyful noise unto the Lord. I am a dead flat singer but I sing softly and into the aisle so I do not disturb anyone. I get a sense of peace and joy when I participate in the worship service. I love saying the Apostles Creed and reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Having spend four days in the hospital, you bet I made joyful noise when I returned home. I have a long recovery. I still have the Lord at my side which brings me great joy. When I was a patient, I said my prayers every night. During all the tests that I had I was always talking to the Lord. I will never stop making joyful noise unto the Lord.

***Prayer: Dear Lord, thanks you for being by my side when I needed you. I shall worship you every day and I will tell of your good works to everyone. Amen***

Carol Graff

December 8, 2022

## Family Genealogy

***Ephesians 3:21: ..."to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."***

What fun I had exploring our history of 11 generations. Our family it's historically registered as Quaker Mayflower descendants of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania by the Quaker meeting of friends in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Each step required review and search and approved by the Historical Society of the Quaker friends in New England.

My mother reverently presented each of us our generational chart of families siblings names. Alfred the great on one side and to Mayflower descendants on my grandmother's side my grandmother's life quest was researching Quaker meeting historical records in New England and sites and cemeteries in Philadelphia and Ohio my mother went on many of these research trips.

William Penn granted land to our ancestors in Chester County, Pennsylvania. My mother and I found civil war properties, built by our ancestors, were their names are still on roads and farms. Mom took me to a house written into her ancestry that was part of the Underground Railroad movement.

My daughter and I went to New England to visit the Mayflower Quaker working village farm where we met our ancestor, Richard Warren, and he spoke to us in the speech dialogue of the time.

God made all this possible from Quaker to Presbyterian. My cousin is a Baptist minister in North Carolina. It is now our job to continue our own documentation of our generation.

***Prayer: Thank you God for opening our generational book of life you so generously bless my grandmother to accomplish. I pray we value the gifts our ancestors were given by you. The choice we now make is to open our own book of life and record the blessings of people we choose to mold our next generation. Amen***

Robin Lloyd

December 13, 2022



## Instructions For a hard Choice

First, you must take a deep breath.

Let oxygen dance through your lungs.

Exhale it slowly. Allow the hurt, the shame, the anger to rise up in you. Let your mind run wild, like a million loose horses. Let the narratives unfold, unroll, a river of choppy water.

Ask yourself how you got here. Look down at your feet. Roll your shoulders back. Remember who you are.

Take another deep breath. Then, walk it back to the beginning.

Instead of looking at your feet, look at hers. Imagine where she stands. Imagine what he needs.

Dry the river of false stories in your mind. Turn rushing water into a dry creek bed, certainly not clean enough to drink. Call the horses. Bring them home.

Watch as they shake off the dust of the day. Name what you're feeling. Inhale again. Now you are ready to choose a better way.

December 12, 2022

### ***What Child is This?***



What child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh  
Come peasant king to own him  
The King of Kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone him

This, this is Christ the king  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring him laud  
The babe, the son of Mary

O raise, raise a song on high  
His mother sings a lullaby  
Joy, oh joy for Christ is born  
The babe, the son of Mary

This, this is Christ the king  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring him laud  
The babe, the son of Mary

What child is this  
Who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap  
On Mary's lap he is sleeping

This, this is Christ the king  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring him laud  
The babe  
The son  
Of Mary



To hear music,  
photo snap using  
smart phone

Songwriters: David Foster / Erin Taylor Foster / Unknown Composer

December 9, 2022



*Flight to Egypt | Lauren Wright Pittman*

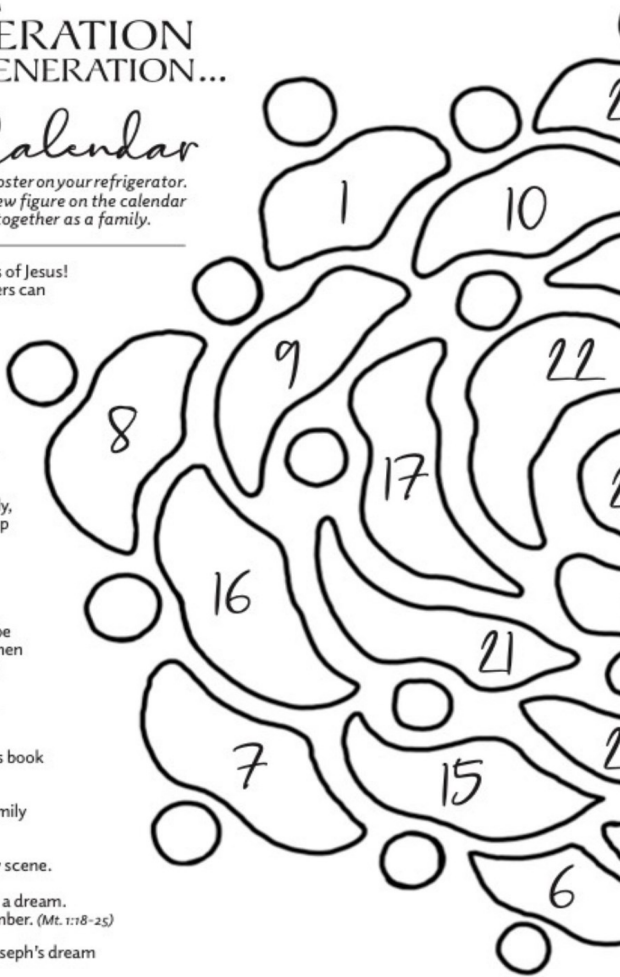
***Pray: Breathe deeply as you gaze upon the image on the left. Imagine placing yourself in this scene. What do you see? How do you feel? Get quiet and still, offering a silent or spoken prayer to God.***



## Advent Calendar

We encourage you to place this poster on your refrigerator. Each day in December, color a new figure on the calendar and complete the daily prompt together as a family.

- 1 Matthew lists 46 relatives of Jesus! How many family members can you name? (Mt. 1:1-17)
- 2 Ask an older relative to share a memory from when they were your age.
- 3 Make Christmas cards for your family members and friends.
- 4 Volunteer with your family, or make a donation to help those in need.
- 5 Create or set up a stable for your nativity scene.
- 6 Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid. What helps you when you're scared? (Lk. 1:26-38)
- 7 Give someone you love a comforting hug.
- 8 Read a favorite Christmas book with your family.
- 9 Pray for people in your family and around the world.
- 10 Add Mary to your nativity scene.
- 11 An angel visited Joseph in a dream. Retell a dream you remember. (Mt. 1:18-25)
- 12 Draw a picture of what Joseph's dream might have looked like.



- 13 Take a walk to look at Christmas lights.

- 14 Ask your family about their favorite Christmas memories.

- 15 Add Joseph to your nativity scene.

- 16 Mary stayed with her cousin Elizabeth. Have you ever stayed at a relative's house? (Lk. 1:39-45, 56-58)

- 17 Make a list of fun Christmas activities to do with your family.

- 18 Name some people that make you smile.

- 19 Cook a favorite recipe with your family.

- 20 Add a manger to your nativity scene.

- 21 Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. Draw a picture of a place you'd like to visit. (Lk. 2:1-7)

- 22 Joseph's family was from Bethlehem. Where is your family from?

- 23 Look at baby photos of you and your family members.

- 24 When Jesus was born, shepherds came to see him. Add shepherds and animals to your nativity scene. (Lk. 2:8-20)

- 25 Merry Christmas! Add baby Jesus to your nativity scene.

