



Fellowship Church at Plum Creek Advent Devotional

Greetings church family!

As advent begins, let us prepare our hearts for the true reason for the season, the birth of Jesus Christ. As we commemorate our Lord and Savior entering into the world to save us from our sins, we pray these daily devotionals will help you and your family keep your eyes fixed on Him. May His peace rest upon you and your heart be filled with joy!

Love,

Fellowship Church at Plum Creek



t Advent

November 29

Isaiah 40: 9-11

⁹O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain;
O Jerusalem You who bring good tidings,
Lift up your voice with strength, Lift *it* up, be not afraid;
Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong *hand*,
And His arm shall rule for Him;
Behold, His reward *is* with Him, And His work before Him.

¹¹ He will feed His flock like a shepherd;
He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry *them* in His bosom,
And gently lead those who are with young.

Today begins our Advent. As Christians, we have been blessed with provision from our Shepherd. We have been privileged to gather with fellow believers and enjoy each other's company. We have felt the comfort of our Lord as He has walked with us through trials and tribulations. And O' how gentle has He been to lead us both young and old! As you anticipate the celebration of remembering Jesus' birth, to whom would God have you bring good tidings to? Will you have the courage to invite that someone whom the Lord has placed in your path to worship with us? To have a meal in your home? Today, spend time in prayer for those divine appointments, for boldness, for an opportunity to share the greatest gift we have ever received. A gift they too can have. Perhaps the Lord has already brought that someone to mind. Don't hesitate, invite them today!



t Advent

November 30

Isaiah 52:7-9

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good *things*,
Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
⁸ Your watchmen shall lift up *their* voices,
With their voices they shall sing together;
For they shall see eye to eye When the Lord brings back Zion.
⁹ Break forth into joy, sing together, You waste places of Jerusalem!
For the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.

Is there anything more majestic than looking upon a great big mountain? This passage reminds me of our mission trips to Honduras. When I consider the beauty of their landscape, I am reminded of the Lord's grandeur, of His awesome power, and splendor. I picture our pastors who trek from village to village sharing the gospel with fellow Hondurans. Indeed, how beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news of salvation! You church, have also been the feet (both spiritually and physically) of bringing good news not just to Honduras but across the globe. Today, take time to pray for our brothers and sisters who continue to spread the gospel throughout the world.

- Pray for the Ebell family in Romania and the Catalist youth ministry.
- Pray for the Pastors and the ministry in Honduras: El Evangelio es Poder.
- Pray for Deborah Magaya and the Kulea ministry in Africa.
- Pray for how God can lead you in being the feet who brings good news, glad tidings of good things, and proclaims salvation around the world.



t Advent

December 1

Genesis 3:8-15

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?" ¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" ¹² Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, "What *is* this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."
¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You *are* cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.
¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Ever since that fateful day when Adam gave into temptation, mankind has been born into sin, separated from our Heavenly Father. But praise be to God, in all His foreknowledge and great mercy, there would be a Seed, born of a virgin, who would conquer sin and death. Though He would be bruised for our iniquities, in obedience, Jesus would pay the ultimate price for rescuing us.

Today, let us call on men to step up and be the spiritual leaders God has designed them to be. Would you take time right now to pray for the marriages in the church?



t Advent

December 2

Isaiah 40:1-5

¹ "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God.

² "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her,
That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned;
For she has received from the LORD's hand Double for all her sins."

³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight

And the rough places smooth; ⁵ The glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see *it* together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

One of the greatest expressions of our Pledge of Allegiance are the words, "one nation under God." Yet, we see more and more attempts (some successful) to take God out of home, school, and government. What has been the result?...increased depression, increased anxiety, increased violence. President Reagan once said, "If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be one nation gone under." This advent season, as you prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, how will you be a source of comfort to your loved ones, to your neighbors, to strangers? Will you be the voice of one crying in expectation for the One to come?

Today, pray for our nation. Pray for all leaders from your house to the White House and those in between.



t Advent

December 3

Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward." ² But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." ⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

In just one year, our church went through a pandemic along with our lead pastor leaving to plant a new church. To say these are unprecedented times would be an understatement. We've had to learn to gather in new ways (can anyone say Zoom?) and reorganize our staff while continuing to minister to the church body. How have we been able to endure? I recently had lunch with a gentlemen and given all that we have been through, he asked, "How is it the church seems to be thriving?" It was really a simple answer, "We've held fast to the Word of God." As you continue to read through the Scripture passages in this advent devotion ask yourself, "Do I believe?" O' my dear friend, may it be so! There is so much God has in store for those who believe.



to Advent

Pray today that the church would remain faithful to the Word. That we would not be a people who succumbs to the culture of today but rather be one that transforms our community by staying true to the Word of God.

December 4

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

¹⁵ "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, ¹⁶ according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.'

¹⁷ "And the Lord said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. ¹⁹ And it shall be *that* whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require *it* of him.

Yesterday's devotion mentioned the changes that our church has been through this year. One of the greatest transitions was our pastor Chris stepping into the role of Lead Pastor. For those of you who have served in ministry, you can appreciate the joy that comes from serving and also the spiritual toll it takes on one's heart, mind, body, and spirit. We can find strength in knowing those whom God raises up, He sustains! Would you take time today to pray for pastor Chris, his wife Tahrea and their family? Would you pray for all our pastors and their families?

Pray that the Lord would continue to place the words He would have our pastors to speak to His church. That we would be a church prepared for the return of our Risen Savior.



t Advent

December 5

Psalm 89:1-4

¹ I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever;

With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

² For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up forever;

Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens."

³ "I have made a covenant with My chosen,

I have sworn to My servant David:

⁴ "Your seed I will establish forever,

And build up your throne to all generations.' " *Selah*

I love worship!

Do you love worship? It's difficult to hold back words of adoration and thankfulness to our Lord when you truly grasp the greatness of His love, grace, and mercy towards us.

Today, will you pray for our worship team? Pray that we would continue to be blessed with talent that is always enveloped in humility. Pray for our worship pastor Jonathan, his wife Sandra and their family. And while you do it, I encourage you to play some Christian instrumental music in the background. You'll be amazed at how worship music has a way of opening up our hearts to Him!