



Greetings church family! This is our fourth and final week of advent. It has been a blessing to be able to share these devotionals with you. May you find your rest and joy this week as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Love,  
Fellowship Church at Plum Creek





Fellowship Church at Plum Creek  
Advent Devotional Dec. 20  
Isaiah 7:10-13

<sup>10</sup> Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.”

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!”


<sup>13</sup> Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also?”

*When reading this text, it's worth noting the story behind it. Ahaz, the ruling king of Judah known for being cowardly, superstitious and hypocritical, and his country were facing various trials. On the verge of being defeated by the Syrian army, the Lord spoke through His prophet Isaiah. King Ahaz was asked to trust the Lord by asking Him for a sign. Instead of trusting in God, King Ahaz reacted out of fear and said, no. Little did he know, that the Lord was going to send a sign anyways. By virgin birth, a son was to come, and his name would be, Immanuel (God is with us).*

*2020 has undoubtedly brought upon us various trials. In fact, it's just seemed like one thing after another. What can we learn from this text in Isaiah? That even in the face of uncertainty, we need to place our implicit trust in the Lord. Even in times such as these, our Lord and Savior is with us! Take courage and trust in the Lord in all circumstances. Rest in the fact that our Lord has not forsaken us and is indeed with us, no matter what.*

*Special thanks to Josh Clark for this devotional.*





Fellowship Church at Plum Creek  
Advent Devotional Dec. 21  
Luke 1:26-35

<sup>26</sup>Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name *was* Mary. <sup>28</sup>And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!"

<sup>29</sup>But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup>Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup>And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*

*The angel Gabriel is named in three separate occasions within the Scriptures. The first time was when Gabriel appeared to the prophet Daniel (Daniel 8:16). Another time was to deliver a message to the priest Zechariah (Luke 1:11). This time it was to Mary and his message was extraordinary. In each of these occasions his appearance frightened them but in each instance Gabriel begins his conversation with words of comfort and cheer. Gabriel's name means "God is great." As we reflect on the birth of Jesus, what words of comfort and cheer can we bring to a hurting world? Will we be met with resistance by spiritual forces of darkness as Gabriel was when coming to Daniel? Will we be met with a response of fear and trembling when we share how great our God is? Yes and yes! But be strong and courageous, because this message is the greatest one we could ever share!*





Fellowship Church at Plum Creek  
Advent Devotional Dec. 22  
Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation *and* increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as *men* rejoice when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup>For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning *and* fuel of fire.

<sup>6</sup>For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of *His* government and peace *there will be* no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

*We are just coming off one of the largest local missions we do as a church, Night in Bethlehem. We had the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ with over 2,000 people in our community. Many of those who came have been walking through darkness this year or maybe their entire lives, yet they were able to come and experience the light of Jesus in us and around us. Our hope is that the story of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection will continue to shine in their lives and provide them with a peace that surpasses all understanding.*

*We know Jesus is our Prince of Peace. The turmoil that the world is currently facing is under his control. He is the Way, Truth, and the Life. He is a Mighty God! We trust in HIM! As a church let us continue to pray for those who heard the Truth during Night in Bethlehem. He tells us to have "Peace and be still" (Mark 4:39). Let us pray that they would continue to seek the Lord and find a church home in our community.*

*Special thanks to our Ministry Pastor Rudy Cedillo for this devotional.*





Fellowship Church at Plum Creek  
Advent Devotional Dec. 23  
Matthew 1:18-25


<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. <sup>20</sup> But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup> So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, <sup>25</sup> and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

*When I was three year’s old, I met my stepfather. From my recollection, my mom and I had been living with my grandmother (momo) for a little over a year before I met him. As I grew older, I always had a sense of knowing my stepdad was not my biological father but he never made me feel like a stepchild. As our love towards one another increased over the years, it was very natural for me to call him dad. When I became a Christian later in my adult years, I recall one day driving and thinking about Jesus and the passage about Him being able to sympathize with our weaknesses and having been tempted in every way as we are (Hebrews 4:15). I remember having a thought about my biological father and how my life could have been different if he had been in my life. Could Jesus relate to me? In that drive, the Holy Spirit revealed to me, Jesus had a stepdad. His name was Joseph. I remember tearing up thinking how very true it is, for the Lord indeed can relate to us in every way. Is there a Joseph in your life? Someone who didn’t have to love you but has chosen to? Someone who you know you can always count on? This Christmas, let us take a moment to give thanks to the Lord for the “Josephs” in our lives.*





Fellowship Church at Plum Creek  
Advent Devotional Christmas Eve  
Luke 2:1-20

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup>So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup>Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” <sup>15</sup>So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup>And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup>But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. <sup>20</sup>Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

*Every year we at Fellowship Church do a Night in Bethlehem a little different. Most of those differences revolve around the script and what role the guides play. However, this year has been like no other. In all the other years, we would take our guests through the live nativity story and end at the birth of Jesus, with Him as a baby in the manger. This year, we took Jesus' story all the way through to the empty tomb. We had so many people thank us for telling the whole story! Yes, Christmas is indeed a celebration of the birth of Jesus but it's not the whole story. His birth is so special because of His purpose. For He came into the world to save us, to reconcile us to the Father (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Have you placed your faith in Jesus, our Risen Savior? This advent season, may we celebrate the birth of Jesus in all His fullness and share the love of Christ with others so that they too may place their faith in Him and be saved!*

Merry Christmas!

