

Fellowship Church at Plum Creek

Advent Devotional

Week 2

Greetings church family! Week 2 of advent is upon us. Let us continue to 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 continue to 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



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December 6

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

³His delight *is* in the fear of the LORD,
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,

Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;
⁴But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,
And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

⁶"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

⁹They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
As the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,
Who shall stand as a banner to the people;
For the Gentiles shall seek Him,
And His resting place shall be glorious."

For many people, the holidays can bring on a level of anxiety when thinking about visiting family members who are difficult to get along with. Someone may have hurt you or a dear loved one of yours. Others may have a different view on life and know just how to push those buttons. Yes, perhaps even now you feel your heart rate increasing as you ponder that certain individual. My friends, let not your hearts be troubled. We have someone who we can cast all our fears and worries upon. Yes, Jesus has blessed us with His peace! Let that be our countenance in every home we enter into this Christmas season. Will you pray for those "not so easy to get along with" people in your life? May they see a spirit of meekness about you in those gatherings. Yes, may they see Jesus living in you!



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December 7

Micah 5:2-3

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,

Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,

Yet out of you shall come forth to Me

The One to be Ruler in Israel,

Whose goings forth *are* from of old,

From everlasting.”

³Therefore He shall give them up,

Until the time *that* she who is in labor has given birth;

Then the remnant of His brethren

Shall return to the children of Israel.

Some of the greatest questions and most endearing expressions about Jesus have come out of the mouths of our children and youth. I so appreciate their candidness and their innocence of inquiry. May we be reminded this Christmas season that God's plans and purposes are always working through people and places in ways we could never imagine. With that in mind, what child or youth is God raising up for His kingdom work? Just as from this little town of Bethlehem came forth our King of kings and Lord of lords, there are no doubt ambassadors for Christ being raised up in our church. Will you pray for our youth pastor Brandon, his wife Becky and his family? Will you pray for our children's pastor Robert, his wife MaryJo and his family? Pray that out of our little church in Plum Creek, great men and women of faith would be raised up and sent out, all for God's glory.



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December 8

Zechariah 6:12-13

¹²Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying:

"Behold, the Man whose name *is* the BRANCH!

From His place He shall branch out,

And He shall build the temple of the LORD;

¹³Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD.

He shall bear the glory,

And shall sit and rule on His throne;

So He shall be a priest on His throne,

And the counsel of peace shall be between them both."'

"I have been frustrated by uprisings of troubles in our life lately. I took to the road and took it to the Lord, wanting to make sure that we are 'right with HIM.' Why, I asked, cannot things not go smoothly, and easily, like I would like them to? Is it something we are doing wrong? Show me Lord, please. He reminded me that the only things in life that seem perfect, easy and symmetrical, are temporary. The flowers and snowflakes are exquisite in their beauty, fragility and symmetry. It is easy to envy such loveliness. But these oaks, are ragged, rugged, and anything but smooth and symmetrical. When things go awry, we dig deeper as we continue to reach upward and outward to Him and for Him. Branches get broken off during hardships and scars are left behind. Other branches grow in directions we would have never guessed. But these all work for His glory and our endurance. I don't want a life that reflects ease, and delicacy. I want to endure. I want to withstand. I want to dig deeper. And I want to be 'His' no matter what. I'd rather have the strength of a weathered tree than the beauty of a trembling flower."

Take time to thank God for all that He has brought you through, that His strength and endurance would rest upon you. - Special thanks to Tanya Wood for this message.



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December 9

Malachi 3:1-6

¹“Behold, I send My messenger,
And he will prepare the way before Me.
And the Lord, whom you seek,
Will suddenly come to His temple,
Even the Messenger of the covenant,
In whom you delight.
Behold, He is coming,”
Says the LORD of hosts.

²“But who can endure the day of His coming?
And who can stand when He appears?
For He *is* like a refiner’s fire
And like launderers’ soap.
³He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver;
He will purify the sons of Levi,
And ^[a]purge them as gold and silver,
That they may offer to the LORD

⁴“Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem
Will be ^[b]pleasant to the LORD,
As in the days of old,
As in former years.
⁵And I will come near you for judgment;
I will be a swift witness
Against sorcerers,
Against adulterers,
Against perjurers,
Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans,
And against those who turn away an alien—
Because they do not fear Me,”
Says the LORD of hosts.
⁶“For I *am* the LORD, I do not change;
Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

The beauty of taking time to reflect on the birth of Jesus is being reminded of the glory of His covering over us. By His blood God no longer sees us as filthy rags but rather white as snow. How wonderful for God to make us white as snow! Here in this part of Texas it is a rarity to see a snow covered landscape. In the few times we have been blessed by such an occasion, the blanket of white as it spans across the rooftops, trees, and yards truly is remarkable. As you look upon it you, tranquility is its whisper. Would you take time today to give God thanks for making you white as snow? Pray that by His Spirit we would continue to be sanctified to reflect more of Jesus.



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December 10

John 1:1-8

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. ⁷This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.

What a wonderful privilege it is to be instruments of God's grace! As John bore witness of the Light, we too as a church family have the opportunity everyday to bear witness to our glorious Savior. The ministries within our church do an amazing job of spreading the love of Jesus Christ. Tomorrow and over the next 3 days will be such an example as we share with thousands of people the story of Jesus birth, death, and resurrection through Night in Bethlehem. Would you pray for our Ministry Pastor Rudy Cedillo, his wife Kelly, and their family? Please pray for Night in Bethlehem and for our other ministries, that our community would see Jesus through our works throughout the area.



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December 11

John 1:9-18

⁹That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" ¹⁶And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

I love driving around the neighborhoods during this time of the year. As you drive from street to street, you get to see all that sparkles, shimmers, and shines through creative displays of lighting on homes and yards. Downtown is always fun to drive by in the evening as the lights pierce through the nighttime sky. It's a wonderful reminder of the one true Light who indeed gives light to every man, woman, and child. Here's an idea. Will you take time tonight to go for a drive around your neighborhood praying for each family as you pass by, that they would receive the one true Light? You will be amazed at how God will open your heart towards your neighbors!



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December 12

Mark 1:1-3

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the Prophets:

“Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
Who will prepare Your way before You.”

³“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the LORD;
Make His paths straight.’”

The scriptures tell us we were all once darkness. But to those who have placed their faith in Jesus have received salvation by God's grace and are now light, praise the Lord! Did you know scientifically speaking, light travels in a straight line, that objects in its path cause it to bend or refract. Today, we have so many paths placed before us: television, radio, internet, cell phones. In just a little hand-held device, we have access to countless apps that can easily take us down paths away from the Lord. Furthermore, what we are influenced by makes its way into our hearts and in turn influences those around us. This season, as we ponder the work of Christ and His ministry. Will you be one who makes His paths straight? Today, take a walk along some trail (or even around your block) and ponder the path that God has for your life and for the lives you have the blessing of influencing. Are you willing to surrender to His leading? Remember, if God is calling you to it, He will lead you through it.

