

# 2021

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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### SCRIPTURE READING

Choose a date for which to write a brief reflection on the scripture text. The final devotional will use the translation found on the Presbyterian Mission daily devotional website for all scripture passages.

### DEVOTIONAL

Before writing your reflection, take time to become familiar with the passage. You can do this by:

- Reading the passage several times in a row.
- Reading what comes before and after the passage to understand its context.
- Outlining the passage (who, what, when, where, why, how).
- Circling any names or words that seem important, confusing, or special.
- Reading other translations of the passage (NIV, ESV, NLT, CEB, KJV) and noting any differences between them. You can find translations online at [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com).
- Consulting a Bible commentary online or at the church library.

Write a **brief** reflection on the lectionary reading (**250 words or less**). This is your opportunity to share with the congregation what you hear the scripture saying to you and to us. Here are some important questions that might help you gather your thoughts:

- What do I hear God saying through this passage?
- What does this passage reveal about God? About me? About us?
- What is the good news in this passage? What's hopeful about it?
- What does this passage reveal about Jesus and the meaning of his birth?
- What does this scripture want to *do* with us, or to us? Does it want to change something? Is it trying to make us expect something from God? What's the agenda of this passage?
- What's the one main idea that helps summarize this passage?

### PRAYER

Write a brief prayer (**75 words or less**). Use **plural** language (for example, "God *we* thank you" instead of "God *I* thank you"). Keep in mind that the whole church will be praying this prayer, so write it as though it's coming from all of us.

***Submit your devotion to the church office by August 31<sup>st</sup>.***  
***Booklets will be available 2 weeks before Advent.***