



Advent Daily Reflections

Prophets are painters. They paint pictures of a time to come, when people will be at peace with one another, hope will be made real, and all will shout for joy! Even if that time seems far off, we know it has already begun in Jesus, who is love come down to transform our lives and the world. This Advent season, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate how he has made possible what once seemed impossible – peace, hope, joy and love!

November 30 – December 27, 2025
First Washington United Methodist Church

Week 1 - Peace Made Possible

November 30 - Isaiah 2:1-5 (The Mountain of the Lord)

- *Reflection Question:* Isaiah envisions a future where nations seek the Lord's instruction, and the people are walking in the "light of the Lord"¹. How does following the teachings of Jesus—who is the ultimate "light" (John 8:12)—make it possible for me to experience a greater sense of peace and right direction in my daily decisions, even when the path ahead seems obscured by darkness or confusion?
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December 1 - Psalm 124 (If the Lord Had Not Been with Us)

- *Reflection Question:* This Psalm celebrates how the people's "help is in the name of the Lord" and thanks God for delivering them from destruction¹. What specific "snare" (danger, worry, or fear) am I currently facing, and how does declaring that my ultimate security and peace come from Jesus (the Lord) allow me to stand confidently and resist the urge to panic or rely solely on my own strength?
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December 2 - Hebrews 11:23-30 (The Faith of Moses and the Israelites)

- *Reflection Question:* The heroes of faith made impossible choices—like Moses choosing disgrace over temporary pleasure¹ and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea—because they acted with certainty of God's reward. What immediate "pleasure" (comfort, ease, avoidance of responsibility) is threatening to distract me, and how does the peace of Jesus empower me to choose the path of faith and obedience, even when it requires sacrifice or feels "impossible"?
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December 3 - Isaiah 54:1-10 (The Future Glory of Zion)

- *Reflection Question:* This passage speaks of God's "everlasting love and compassion" and promises that though mountains may be removed, God's covenant of peace will not be shaken¹. In what area of my life am I currently feeling shaken or unstable, and how does meditating on the immovable, covenantal peace established by Jesus enable me to find firm footing and shout for joy?
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December 4 - Isaiah 4:2-6 (The Future Glory of the Remnant)

- *Reflection Question:* The Lord promises to create a shelter and a refuge—a cloud and smoke by day, and a shining fire by night—over the whole area of Mount Zion¹. How does knowing that Jesus provides this spiritual "shelter" and protection make it possible for me to rest in peace during times of spiritual, emotional, or physical "storm" or "heat" in my life?
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December 5 - Psalm 72:1-7 (A Prayer for the King)

- *Reflection Question:* The prayer asks that the King may judge with righteousness, bring justice to the oppressed, and that under his rule, "prosperity will abound till the moon is no more" and "peace will flourish"¹. How does the reign of Jesus Christ (the true and ultimate King) in my heart guide my own actions so that I am a source of justice and flourishing peace, rather than judgment and conflict, in my sphere of influence?
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December 6 - Isaiah 30:19-26 (The Lord's Compassion)

- *Reflection Question:* This vision of restoration promises that God will be gracious, and while there may be "distress"¹, God's guidance will be clear ("This is the way; walk in it") leading to abundant blessing and healing¹. When my current situation feels like a time of distress, how does the promise that Jesus will clearly guide my path enable me to exchange anxiety for peace and trust that ultimate healing and transformation are being made possible?
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Week 2 - Hope Made Possible

December 7 - Isaiah 11:1-10 (The Branch from Jesse)

- *Reflection Question:* This passage promises that a righteous ruler, filled with the Spirit, will emerge, bringing justice and peace¹. In what specific area of my life or the world am I currently struggling with a sense of hopelessness or injustice, and how does recognizing that the Spirit of the Lord (already given through Jesus) rests upon me empower me to embody this future hope by taking a step of justice or wisdom today?
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December 8 - Psalm 21 (Joy in the Lord's Strength)

- *Reflection Question:* The Psalmist rejoices that the king has great victory, honor, and blessing from God, and his hope is in the Most High¹. How does focusing on the ultimate victory and glory of Jesus—our King—shift my gaze from temporary setbacks and fear to an eternal hope, allowing me to find joy and confidence even when my immediate circumstances feel discouraging?
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December 9 - Isaiah 41:14-20 (God's Help for Israel)

- *Reflection Question:* God promises the worm Jacob that "you will rejoice in the Lord and glory in the Holy One of Israel," transforming the wilderness into pools of water and planting trees where there was barren land¹. What "wilderness" of fear or powerlessness am I currently facing, and how does trusting the promise of Jesus—that God will provide miraculous resources (water, trees) in impossible places—allow me to cultivate hope instead of despair?
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December 10 - Matthew 12:33-37 (A Tree and Its Fruit)

- *Reflection Question:* Jesus teaches that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks," suggesting that good people produce good things¹. If the transformative love of Jesus is the "good treasure" planted in my heart, what words of hope, encouragement, and life should I be speaking this Advent season to counteract the hopelessness or negativity I encounter, and thereby make hope real for others?
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December 11 - Ruth 1:6-18 (Naomi and Ruth)

- *Reflection Question:* Ruth chooses to abandon her homeland and cling to Naomi, declaring, "where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God"¹. What act of radical loyalty and commitment to another person or a community (my "Naomi") is God calling me to this Advent, and how does stepping out in this kind of relational faithfulness, though uncertain, become an act of deep and abiding hope made possible by Jesus' own faithful love?
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December 12 - Psalm 146:5-10 (Praise for God's Help)

- *Reflection Question:* The Psalmist declares, "Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God"¹

because God executes justice for the oppressed, feeds the hungry, and sets the prisoners free¹. How does the active, justice-bringing nature of God (made real in Jesus) anchor my hope, moving me beyond passive wishing toward active participation in bringing light and freedom to those who feel trapped or forgotten?

December 13 - 1 Samuel 2:1-8 (Hannah's Prayer)

- *Reflection Question:* Hannah, after receiving a seemingly impossible blessing, sings a song of hope that God reverses fortunes: lifting the poor from the dust and setting them among princes¹. In what areas of my life or the world am I experiencing a feeling of being "lowly" or without power, and how does the example of Jesus' ultimate reversal of fortune (from heaven's glory to a humble birth) instill a steadfast hope that God will always act to exalt the humble and transform the impossible?
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Week 3 - Joy Made Possible

December 14 - Isaiah 35:1-10 (Joyful Return)

- *Reflection Question:* This passage declares that the wilderness will rejoice and blossom, and the ransomed will return to Zion with singing, "everlasting joy upon their heads"¹. What "desert" or dry, difficult place in my life is Jesus already transforming, and how can I choose to express the resulting "everlasting joy"—the joy of God's redemptive work—right now, even if the final journey back to Zion is still underway?
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December 15 - Psalm 42 (Thirsting for God)

- *Reflection Question:* The Psalmist begins by lamenting the absence of God but then resolves to put his hope in God, declaring, "I shall again praise him, my saving presence and my God"¹. When I feel downcast or my soul is "thirsting" for God's presence, how does the indwelling presence of Jesus make it possible for me to confidently declare future joy and move from lament to expectant praise?
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December 16 - Zechariah 8:1-17 (Promises of Restoration)

- *Reflection Question:* God promises to return to Jerusalem and restore its fortunes, resulting in days of old men and women enjoying life in the streets, and fasts being turned into feasts of "joy and gladness and cheerful festivals"¹. What current commitments or practices (my "fasts") is Jesus calling me to maintain that, while perhaps challenging, are foundational to the future joy and communal celebration that God is making possible in my life and community?
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December 17 - Psalm 80:1-7 (Prayer for Restoration)

- *Reflection Question:* The Psalmist repeatedly prays, "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved"¹. How does knowing that the very face of God's love and saving presence has been revealed in Jesus Christ make possible an immediate, foundational joy and confidence that transforms my persistent prayers for restoration into hopeful declarations?
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December 18 - Ezekiel 47:1-12 (The River of Life)

- *Reflection Question:* Ezekiel envisions a life-giving river flowing from the temple that brings healing and abundant life wherever it goes, causing the desolate waters to become fresh and full of fish¹. Where in my life or relationships does a sense of barrenness or death currently reside, and how can I choose to access and share the abundant, healing "river of life"—Jesus—to make true, overflowing joy possible for myself and others?
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December 19 - Galatians 4:1-7 (Children of God)

- *Reflection Question:* Paul explains that through Christ, we are no longer slaves but adopted children of God, and because we are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Father!"¹. How does this radical, joyous reality of being an adopted heir of God (and not a slave) transform my daily anxieties and fears into a deep, unshakable joy of belonging, especially during the Advent season?
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December 20 - John 3:31-36 (The Testimony of Jesus)

- *Reflection Question:* John the Baptist affirms that Jesus is the one who comes from heaven, speaks the words of God, and those who believe in the Son "have eternal life"¹. How does the certainty

of having "eternal life" (a life now connected to God through Jesus) free me from the pursuit of temporary pleasures and anchor my joy in a love and truth that will never fade?

Week 4 - Love Made Possible

December 21 - Psalm 33 (Praise to the Creator and Sustainer)

- *Reflection Question:* The Psalmist emphasizes that "the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord"¹ and that God's plan stands firm forever¹. How does recognizing that the world is saturated with God's reliable, steadfast love (made visible in Jesus) free me from anxiety and empower me to approach difficult relationships or future uncertainties with a patient, enduring love?
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December 22 - Psalm 145 (The Greatness of God)

- *Reflection Question:* This Psalm beautifully describes God as "gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love"¹. How does experiencing the merciful love of Jesus, which is slow to anger toward my own failings, motivate me to extend that same patient, forgiving, and abounding love to others this Advent season?
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December 23 - Psalm 147 (Praise for God's Care for Jerusalem)

- *Reflection Question:* The Lord is praised for healing the brokenhearted and binding up their wounds¹, and for taking pleasure in those who hope in his steadfast love¹. What "broken heart" (my own or another's) is the love of Jesus calling me to notice and participate in healing this week, relying not on my own power, but on the comforting, restoring love that God provides?
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December 24 - Matthew 1:18-25 (The Birth of Jesus)

- *Reflection Question:* Joseph, though having every right to quietly dismiss Mary, chose to act in obedience to God's angelic message, which was an act rooted in merciful love¹. In what specific current situation is God calling me to sacrifice my own "rights" or reputation in favor of an act of compassionate, obedient love, demonstrating that the transformative love of Jesus is already at work in me?

December 25 - Luke 2:1-14 (The Birth of Jesus) Christmas Day

- *Reflection Question:* The angels announce a "good news of great joy for all the people" in the birth of the Savior, Christ the Lord¹. Since this "good news" is the ultimate expression of God's love for humanity, how can the boundless and inclusive nature of this love—meant for *all* people—transform my own heart so that the boundaries I often place on whom I am willing to love are removed?
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December 26 - Psalm 102 (A Prayer of One in Distress)

- *Reflection Question:* The Psalmist, feeling afflicted and despairing, ultimately finds comfort in the eternal nature of God's love and the assurance that God will rebuild Zion¹. When I am in distress or facing a crisis of faith, how does reminding myself that God's love (as embodied in Jesus) is from "everlasting to everlasting" make it possible for me to move from focusing on my temporary pain to resting in God's unending, transforming love?
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December 27 - Psalm 148 (Praise to the Lord from All Creation)

- *Reflection Question:* All of creation—from the highest heavens to the depths of the sea, including kings and common people—is commanded to praise the Lord¹. How can I join the "universal song of love" sung by creation this Advent season by intentionally expressing appreciation and love for the world and the people around me, recognizing them as objects of God's perfect creation and ultimate love (Jesus)?

Source:

¹ UNITED METHODIST OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

BREAKTHROUGH - A GNJ guide to best practices for worship

*Reflection questions based on daily scriptures and generated by Gemini