

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS  
ADVENT DEVOTIONAL  
WEEK FOUR



Welcome to this Advent devotional.

This devotional was born from the questions you shared during our Can I Ask? sermon series, questions about faith, life, Scripture, suffering, and what it means to follow Jesus in a complicated world. Those questions were brave. They were honest. And they revealed something beautifully human: every one of us carries deep wonderings in our hearts, and God is not afraid of any of them.

Advent is the perfect season to keep asking. This is the time of year when we slow down, pay attention, and dare to explore the mystery of Christ coming among us. Advent is not sentimental. It is not polished. It is the honest story of God entering a world filled with fear, doubt, division, and longing and meeting people right where they are.

In these pages, you will find space to reflect, wrestle, breathe, and be open to how God is already at work in your life. Advent invites us to bring our questions, our hopes, our uncertainties, and our grief into the presence of a God who chooses to come close. The incarnation, God with us, is not just a doctrine. It is a powerful experience of love meeting us in our most honest places and offering us what we most need: answers when we are searching, faith when we are struggling, and assurance when we feel unsteady.

My hope is that this devotional will help you journey toward Christmas with intention and imagination. May these reflections draw you deeper into the mystery of Christ, who steps into our world and into our lives for such a time as this.

You are not alone on the journey.  
You are loved.  
And you are free to ask.

Pastor Daniel Park  
November 28, 2025

# **Table Contents**

December 21 – Inviting Without Fear

December 22 – Loving in the Face of Evil

December 23 – Love Beyond Boundaries

December 24 – Love That Welcomes

December 25 – The Answer Has a Name

## **December 21, 2025 – Inviting Without Fear**

John 21:19

*Then He said to him, 'Follow Me.'"*

### Question

*How do I respond when non-believers ask if they're going to hell?*

### Reflection

No question cuts more sharply. Too often Christians answer with threats instead of tenderness. Jesus never reduced people to eternal outcomes; He invited them into relationship. So often Christianity is reduced to a simplistic transaction of eternal destination. There is so much more to our faith journey than where we land beyond this side of death.

When someone asks this, they're usually asking a deeper question: Am I loved? Is there hope for me? The answer is yes. Always yes. Christ's call is "Follow Me," not "Fear Me."

Our task is to embody that invitation: to be guides, not gatekeepers. Point people to grace, to the life you've found, to the peace you didn't earn. Joy grows when salvation stops being a line in the sand and becomes a path we walk together.

### Prayer

*God of grace, teach me to answer fear with friendship. Let my words open doors, not close them, so that others may hear Your invitation to life abundant. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.*

## **December 22, 2025 – Loving in the Face of Evil**

Luke 23:34

*"Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.'"*

Question

*How can I avoid hating people when they do evil acts?*

Reflection

Hatred feels righteous at first. It surges in defense of the wounded. However, when it is left unchecked, it poisons the soul it tries to protect. Jesus understood that. On the cross, as nails tore His hands, He refused to let hatred have the final word.

Forgiveness is not denial. It does not excuse evil or abandon justice. It is the refusal to mirror what you oppose. When you choose forgiveness, you break evil's cycle by taking its power into yourself and transforming it through grace. That is cruciform love: costly, courageous, and redemptive.

Advent leads us here: to the God who loves even His enemies. Each candle we light shortens the shadow of resentment. The peace we long for in the world begins in hearts that refuse to hate. You don't have to like those who do harm, but you can pray for them, release their grip on your thoughts, and ask Christ to heal what they broke. Love is not soft; it is the hardest, holiest resistance of all.

Prayer

*God of grace and love, save me from hatred disguised as righteousness. Teach me to forgive without forgetting justice and to resist evil without becoming it. Let Your mercy flow through me until love triumphs. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.*

## **December 23, 2025 – Love Beyond Boundaries**

John 10:15

*"I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also."*

Question

*Do You meet people of other faiths? Do You save them too?*

Reflection

Every Christmas we proclaim, "Good news of great joy for all people." All people. Yet human hearts draw borders faster than grace can erase them. We divide, categorize, and claim ownership of God. However, Jesus constantly moved beyond the boundaries

When He spoke of "other sheep," He revealed a love wide enough for the whole world. Salvation is not a elite club for the correct but connection with the living Christ. Christianity is not about exclusive ownership of revelation. Rather, it is an invitation to participation. We bear witness to the Light, but the Light shines beyond our walls.

Does Jesus meet people of other faiths? Of course! He is Emmanuel, God with us, with all of us. Love is His native language, and wherever love, justice, and mercy bloom, His footprints are near. Let that widen your joy, not weaken your conviction. There, in the shared space of common values, you can articulate the Christ who espouses them to the utmost.

Prayer

*Boundless God, forgive the smallness of my vision. Open my heart to the breadth of Your mercy that spans every border. Make me a bridge of compassion where others have built walls. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.*

## **December 24, 2025 – Love That Welcomes**

### Luke 2:7

*She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in bands of cloth, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."*

### Question

*How do I respond to those who think our inclusive church is an anomaly?*

### Reflection

On the night Christ was born, the world had no room. Yet the God of galaxies chose the open stable as headquarters for redemption. That's the pattern: when exclusion closes a door, divine love builds another entrance.

To welcome those others overlook is not modern innovation. It is ancient fidelity. The church's inclusivity is not compromise. It is Christmas. Every nativity scene testifies that God shows up in the margins. If people call your welcome unusual, remember: Bethlehem hospitality was scandalous, too. Inclusion cost Mary her reputation and Joseph his comfort, but it birthed salvation. A church that mirrors that openness will sometimes be misunderstood. *However*, it will also be unmistakably Christlike. On this holy night, let us remember that love is still being born in every space that refuses to shut its doors.

### Prayer

*God of the Manger, keep our hearts wide as Your stable. When others see anomaly, let You see home. May every welcome we extend echo the angels' song of peace on earth. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.*

## **December 25, 2025 – The Answer Has a Name**

John 1:14

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth."*

Question

*How does Christmas change our questions?*

Reflection

All Advent long we have been asking, Why? How? When? Where are You, Lord? And now, in the hush of morning, the heavens answer not with explanations, but with presence. A baby's cry pierces the world's confusion.

God's answer to suffering is not a lecture but a life. The infinite becomes touchable. Love takes a name, Jesus, and enters our story from the inside. Every "why" finds a companion. Every "how long" meets Emmanuel's hand. The questions do not disappear, they are transfigured. We still wrestle, but no longer alone. The manger tells us that God is not far off calculating solutions. God is here, co-suffering, co-creating, and redeeming from within.

Christmas changes everything because it changes who is with us. The Word walks among our words. The Answer lives inside the questions, whispering, "I am here, and I am enough." So celebrate! Not because every mystery is solved, but because Love has arrived to hold you through them all. The waiting has given birth to wonder

Prayer

*Incarnate Light, thank You for entering our darkness. Let the reality of Your presence outshine every fear. May this day mark not an ending to my questions but a new beginning of life with You. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.*



