MAKING ROOM FOR JUSTICE

An Advent Journey of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love

A Four-Week Independent Devotional • Advent 2026

Written by Pastor Jermell Witherspoon

A Letter to the Admiral Church Family

Dear Admiral Family,

As we enter Advent, we prepare once again to welcome the Christ child into our lives and into our world. This season invites us to slow down, pay attention, and ask what it means to make room for God. Yet Advent is not only about waiting. It is also about the faithful work we do while we wait.

Our ongoing study of reparations has asked us to look carefully at history, at the ways injustice continues to shape our communities, and at the responsibility we share in repairing what has been broken. That work belongs in our Advent journey. The hope, peace, joy, and love we celebrate are not simply beautiful words to place around a wreath. They are gifts of God that call us to act.

I invite you to use this devotional in your own time each week. Read the Scripture, sit with the short reflection, and spend a few quiet minutes with the daily prompts. You do not need to have perfect answers. Bring your questions, your honesty, your prayers, and your willingness to be changed. Some days you may journal; on others, a moment of silence or a simple act of care may be enough.

As we have said in this season of stewardship, what God has given us is Too Good to Hold. May this Advent help us share our hope, practice a peace rooted in justice, celebrate joy that makes room for everyone, and live a love willing to repair.

With love and hope,

Pastor Jermell

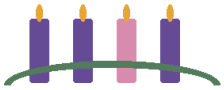
How to use this devotional

At the beginning of each week, read the theme and Scripture. Then take five to ten minutes each day to reflect on the short question. End the week with the prayer, and consider one small step toward justice, repair, or deeper relationship.

WEEK ONE | HOPE

The Courage to Imagine a Different World

November 29–December 5 • Read: Isaiah 58:6–12





REFLECT

Hope is more than believing that tomorrow will be better. Isaiah calls God's people to loosen the bonds of injustice, feed the hungry, and become "repairers of the breach." Our reparations study asks us to remember what has been broken and to imagine how our community might participate in repair. Hope becomes faithful when it moves us toward action.

PONDER

What injustice have I learned to recognize more clearly? What could a more just future look like in our neighborhood?

A MOMENT EACH DAY

Sun 29 · Isaiah 9:2 — Where do I see light breaking through injustice?

Mon 30 · Psalm 78:4 — Whose stories of struggle and hope must be remembered?

Tue 1 · Isaiah 58:12 — What breach in our community needs repair?

Wed 2 · Revelation 21:5 — What might God be making new?

Thu 3 · Jeremiah 29:7 — How is my well-being tied to my neighbors' well-being?

Fri 4 · Micah 6:8 — What small act of justice can I practice?

Sat 5 · Romans 15:13 — What hope will I carry forward?

PRAYER

God of hope, give me courage to see what is broken, imagine what is possible, and take one faithful step toward repair. Amen.

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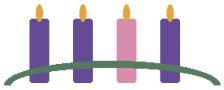
WEEK TWO | PEACE

There Can Be No Lasting Peace Without Justice

December 6–12 • Read: Isaiah 32:16–18





REFLECT

Peace is not simply the absence of disagreement. Scripture links peace to justice and right relationship. Our reparations conversations may unsettle us, yet avoiding painful truths does not heal harm. Peace requires listening, accountability, and a willingness to change. Jesus calls us to become peacemakers, not merely peacekeepers.

PONDER

When have I mistaken comfort for peace? What does accountability look like in a community seeking reconciliation?

A MOMENT EACH DAY

Sun 6 · John 14:27 — How is Christ's peace different from comfort?

Mon 7 · John 8:32 — What difficult truth has helped me grow?

Tue 8 · James 1:19 — Whose experience do I need to hear?

Wed 9 · Proverbs 31:8–9 — When should I speak rather than remain silent?

Thu 10 · Matthew 5:23–24 — What is the difference between apology and repair?

Fri 11 · Isaiah 32:17 — What would just peace look like in Seattle?

Sat 12 · Matthew 5:9 — How can I practice courageous peacemaking?

PRAYER

Prince of Peace, help me listen with humility, tell the truth with care, and seek healing that includes justice. Amen.

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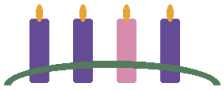
WEEK THREE | JOY

Joy Is More Than Survival

December 13–19 • Read: Luke 1:46–55





REFLECT

Mary's song is joyful because it imagines the lowly lifted and the hungry filled. Communities harmed by racism, displacement, and exclusion have long created joy in the midst of struggle. Yet God desires more than survival: God desires flourishing. Reparations invite us to ask not only what was taken, but what possibilities for dignity, security, and delight can be restored.

PONDER

What is the difference between helping someone survive and creating conditions where they can flourish?

A MOMENT EACH DAY

Sun 13 · Luke 1:46–55 — How does Mary connect joy with justice?

Mon 14 · Psalm 126:5–6 — Who has taught me joy amid hardship?

Tue 15 · John 10:10 — What does abundant life mean to me?

Wed 16 · Acts 2:44–47 — What can I share so others may thrive?

Thu 17 · Luke 4:18–19 — Whose liberation am I called to celebrate?

Fri 18 · Joel 2:25–26 — What opportunities could restoration make possible?

Sat 19 · Romans 12:15 — Can I rejoice fully in another's flourishing?

PRAYER

God of joy, free me to celebrate liberation and to help build a world where every neighbor can flourish. Amen.

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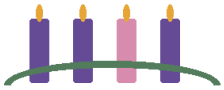
WEEK FOUR | LOVE

Love Is Something We Do

December 20–26 • Read: 1 John 3:16–18; Luke 19:1–10





REFLECT

Christmas celebrates God's love made visible. Scripture reminds us to love "in truth and action." After meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus commits to giving and restoring what he has taken. Our reparations study challenges us to move beyond sympathy toward meaningful repair. At Admiral, our resources and relationships are too good to hold: love invites us to share them for the good of our neighbors.

PONDER

What has changed in me through our reparations study? What concrete commitment will I make in 2027?

A MOMENT EACH DAY

Sun 20 · 1 John 3:16–18 — Where must my love become action?

Mon 21 · Luke 19:1–10 — What does Zacchaeus teach about restitution?

Tue 22 · Mark 12:30–31 — Who is my neighbor beyond my familiar circle?

Wed 23 · 2 Corinthians 9:7–8 — What gift or resource can I share?

Thu 24 · Luke 2:1–7 — Who still needs safe shelter and belonging?

Fri 25 · John 1:1–14 — How can I draw near to people facing exclusion?

Sat 26 · Micah 6:8 — What action will I carry into the new year?

PRAYER

God of love, let my words become action. Make me generous, accountable, and willing to help repair what is broken. Amen.