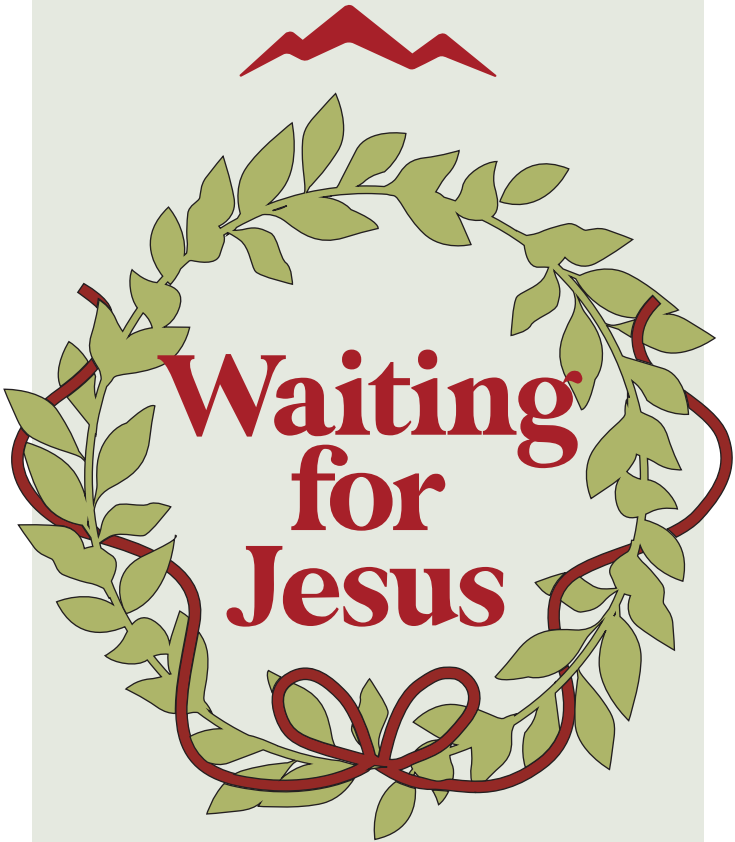


AN ADVENT JOURNEY

The season of Advent teaches us to wait by rooting us in ancient promises and drawing us toward an everlasting God—a God who is playing the long game. The Bible is a record of how this God is patiently, lovingly, and faithfully at work among people who are often stubborn, hateful, and faithless. God's good world is spoiled with bad, yet God remains good. And, as only he can do, God makes promises to overcome evil with good. These promises are ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, the one to whom all the Scriptures point.

This Advent journey is designed to help all of us actively wait for Jesus along with the many faithful who came before us. As the book of Hebrews says, we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses" who learned to wait and trust God's promises even when they couldn't see their final fulfillment (Hebrews 12:1-3). **May these daily reflections help you "fix your eyes on Jesus" and enlarge your faith as you wait for his birth.**

There are 25 cards for December 1-25.
Each card includes:

A biblical person or people
Scripture
Short liturgy with prayer

They are designed so that a group or family could join together in Jesus-focused, prayerful waiting by reading the scriptures and prayers out loud. Assign 1 reader at a time or read parts together in unison. When finished, **hang the card on the string** to mark each moment along the way to Christmas Day.

1

The Ancients



Hebrews 11:1-2 NIV

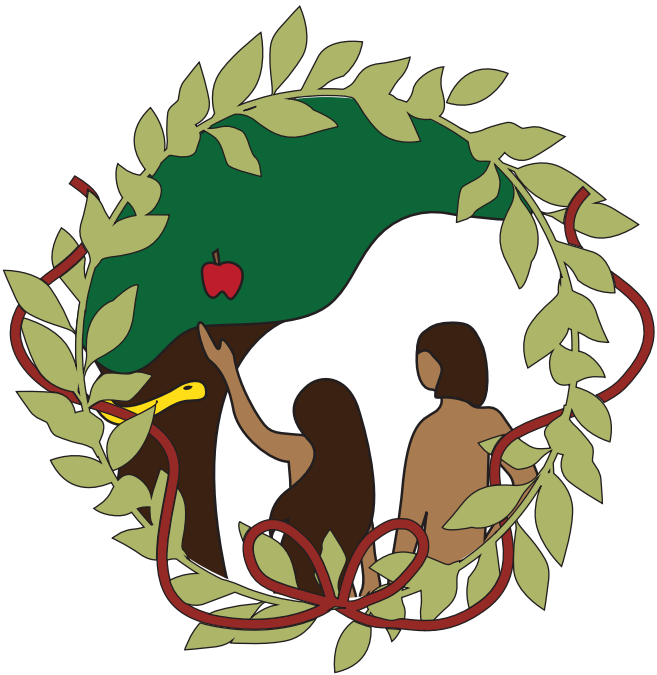
Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. [2]This is what the ancients were commended for.

With the people of old, we wait in faith for Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus. Give us assurance of your coming. Amen.

2

Adam & Eve



Genesis 3:14-15 NIV

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "... [15]And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

With Adam & Eve, we wait for Jesus to crush the snake.

Come Lord Jesus. Defeat the evil in us and around us. Amen.

3

Abraham & Sarah



Genesis 12:1-3 NIV

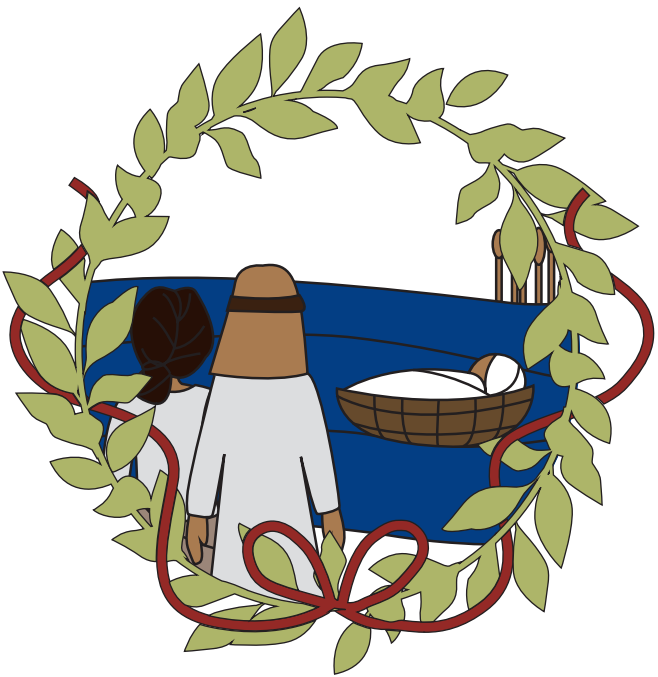
The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

With Abraham & Sarah, we wait for Jesus to bring blessing to all.

Come Lord Jesus. May your blessing flow to us and through us. Amen.

4

Moses' Parents



Hebrews 11:23 NIV

By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

With Moses' parents, we wait for Jesus, a deliverer even greater than Moses.

Come Lord Jesus. Give us courage, and cast out fear. Amen.

5

Moses



Hebrews 11:24-26 NIV

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. [25]He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. [26]He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

With Moses, we wait for the reward that is ours in Christ.

Come Lord Jesus. Strengthen us when we are mistreated. Amen.

6

The Israelites



Deuteronomy 18:15, 17-18 NIV

15[Moses said:] The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. ... 17The Lord said to me... 18 "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him."

With the Israelites, we wait for Jesus to speak to us.

Come Lord Jesus. Make us ready to listen and obey you. Amen.

7

Naomi & Ruth



Ruth 4:13-17 CEV

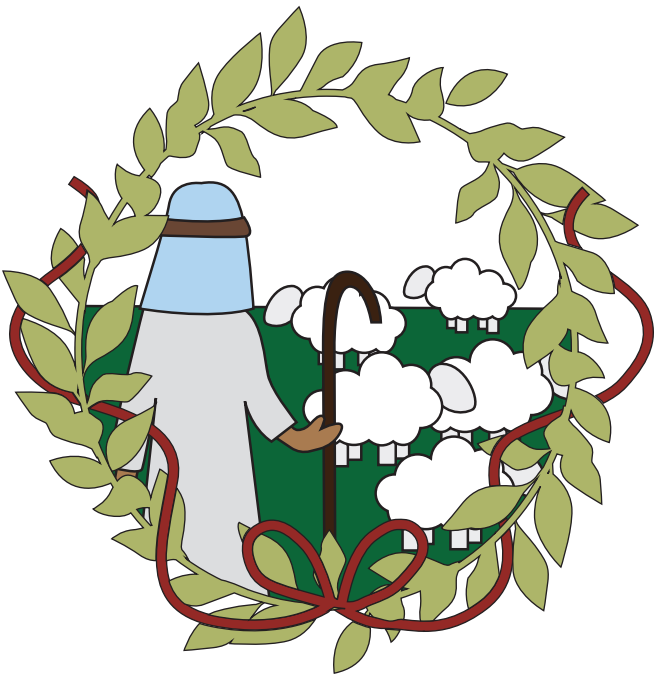
13 Boaz married Ruth, and the Lord blessed her with a son. 14 After his birth, the women said to Naomi: Praise the Lord! Today he has given you a grandson to take care of you... 15 He will make you happy and take care of you in your old age... 16 Naomi loved the boy and took good care of him. 17 The neighborhood women named him Obed, but they called him "Naomi's Boy." When Obed grew up he had a son named Jesse, who later became the father of King David.

With David's great-great-grandmother and great-grandmother, we wait for Jesus, the Son of David.

Come Lord Jesus. We welcome you as our king. Amen.

8

David



2 Samuel 7:8; 11-12; 16 NIV

8 "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel... "The Lord himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom... 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

With David, we wait for Jesus' everlasting kingdom to arrive.

Come Lord Jesus. Establish your kingdom among us. Amen.

9

Solomon



Psalm 72:1-2; 11; 17 NIV

A Psalm of Solomon.

[1]Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. [2]May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice... [11]May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him... [17]May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. Then all nations will be blessed through him.

With Solomon, we wait for your royal son, Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus. Bring your righteousness and justice. Amen.

10

The Psalmist



Psalm 130:3-6 NIV

[3]If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? [4]But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. [5]I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. [6]I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.

With the Psalmist, we wait for Jesus who forgives our sins.

Come Lord Jesus. Forgive us so that we can serve you. Amen.

11

Isaiah



Isaiah 9:2; 6 NIV

[2]The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned... [6]For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

With Isaiah, we wait for Jesus to bring light into our darkness.

Come Lord Jesus. You are our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Amen.

12

Jeremiah



Jeremiah 31:15-17 NIV (*Quoted in Matthew 2:18)

15This is what the Lord says: "A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." 16This is what the Lord says: "Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded," declares the Lord. "They will return from the land of the enemy. 17So there is hope for your descendants," declares the Lord.

With Jeremiah, we wait and weep in our grief.

Come Lord Jesus. Comfort us and give us hope. Amen.

13

Daniel



Daniel 7:13-14 NIV

13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

With Daniel, we wait for Jesus, the Son of Man, and his everlasting kingdom.

Come Lord Jesus. May all nations worship you. Amen.

14

Hosea



Hosea 14:1; 4 CEV

Israel, return! Come back to the Lord, your God. Sin has made you fall... [4]Israel, you have rejected me, but my anger is gone; I will heal you and love you without limit.

With Hosea, we wait for Jesus who heals us from sin.

Come Lord Jesus. We return to your limitless love. Amen.

15

Joel



Joel 2:28-29; 32 NIV
(*Quoted in Acts 2:17-21)

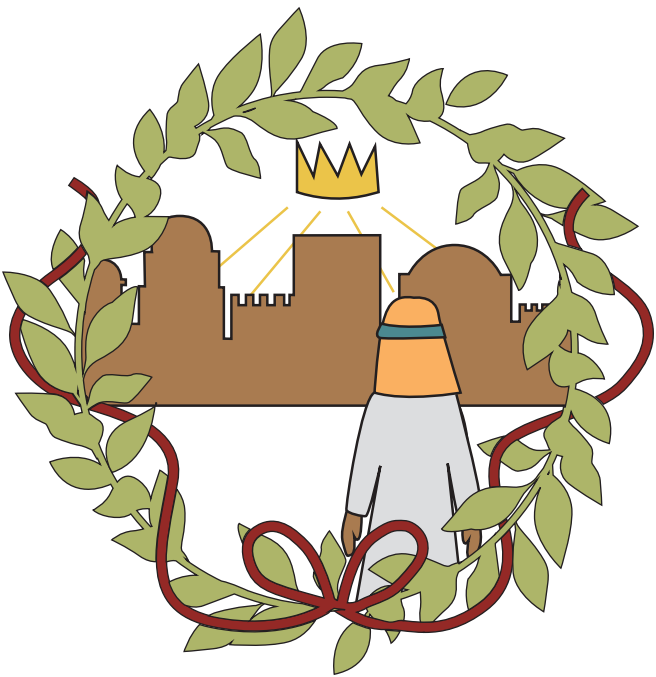
28"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days... 32And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

With Joel, we wait for the Spirit of Jesus to be given to all.

Come Lord Jesus. Fill us with your Spirit. Amen.

16

Micah



Micah 5:2 NIV
(*Quoted in Matthew 2:6)

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

With Micah, we wait for Jesus from Bethlehem.

Come Lord Jesus. Rule our hearts today. Amen.

17

Habakkuk



Acts 13:38; 40-41 NIV
(*Quoting Habakkuk 1:5)

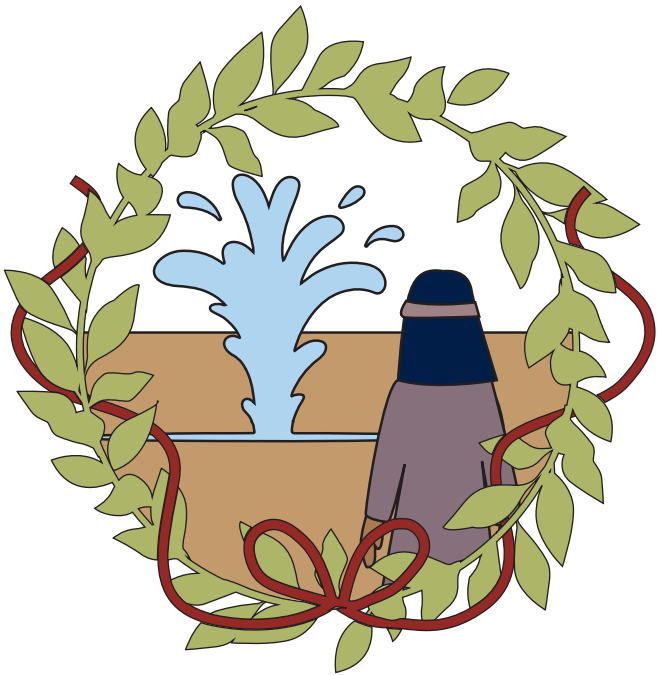
38 “Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ...Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you: 41 ‘“Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you.”’

With Habakkuk, we wait to see Jesus and believe.

Come Lord Jesus. Forgive our unbelief. Amen.

18

Zechariah



Zechariah 13:1 NIV

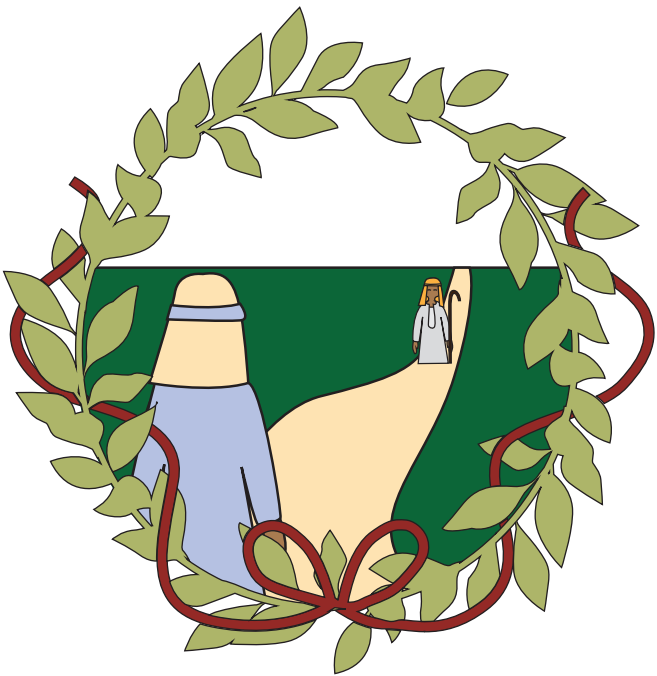
On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

With Zechariah, we wait for Jesus, a fountain of living water.

Come Lord Jesus. Cleanse us from sin and impurity. Amen.

19

Malachi



Malachi 3:1
(*Quoted in Luke 7:27)

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

With Malachi, we wait for the messenger to announce Jesus' coming.

Come Lord Jesus. We seek you with all our hearts. Dwell with us. Amen.

20

The Old Testament Cloud of Witnesses



Hebrews 11:13 NIV

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

With this cloud of witnesses, we wait for Jesus who fulfills your promises.

Come Lord Jesus. Give us courage to live as strangers on this earth. Amen.

21

Theophilus



Luke 1:1-4 CEV

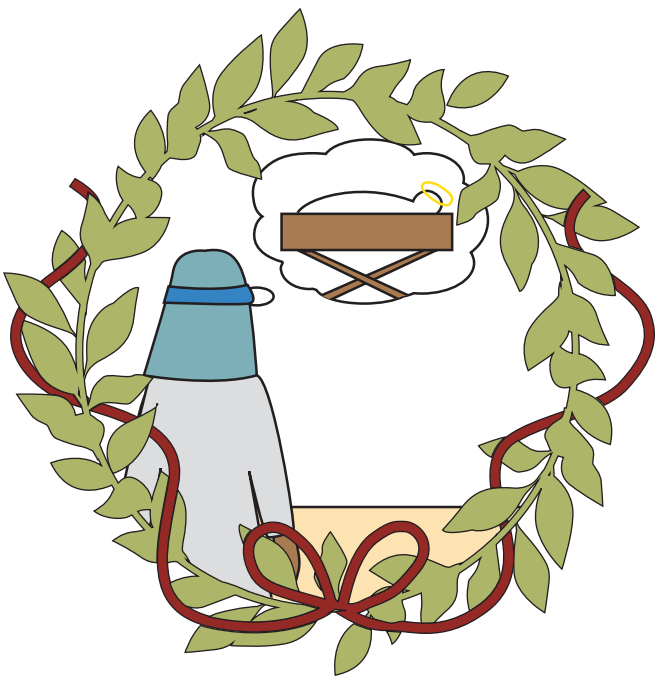
[1]Many people have tried to tell the story of what God has done among us. [2]They wrote what we had been told by the ones who were there in the beginning and saw what happened. [3]So I made a careful study of everything and then decided to write and tell you exactly what took place. Honorable Theophilus, [4]I have done this to let you know the truth about what you have heard.

With Theophilus, we wait to hear the true story of Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus. Open our hearts to the truth. Amen.

22

Joseph



Matthew 1:20-23 NIV

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21]She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." [22]All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: [23]"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

With Joseph, we wait for Jesus to save us from our sins.

Come Lord Jesus. We make room for you to be with us. Amen.

23

Mary



Luke 1:30-33 NIV

Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

With Mary, we wait for Jesus, the Son of the Most High.

Come Lord Jesus. May your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

24

Simeon



Luke 2:25, 29-32 NIV

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him... 29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

With Simeon, we wait for salvation in Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus. Bring light to our eyes and to all nations. Amen.

25

Anna



Luke 2:36, 38 NIV

[36]There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old... She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. [38]Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

With Anna, we wait for our redemption in Jesus' name.

Come Lord Jesus. We give thanks to God for your coming. Amen.