

## Prepare Him Room

### 2025 Advent Devotional

Pastor Chad and Pastor Amy have prepared an Advent Devotional for Flint First. Take the time each week throughout Advent to meditate on the reading and the scripture that goes along with.

#### **Week 1: Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup> – Hope**

Preparation for the Christmas season can often feel busy and frantic, but it doesn't have to be this way. Hope is the central theme to the season of advent. Not only is it a time of preparation, it's a time of anticipation that directs our hearts and minds to the coming of Christ. It's the hope for a better future.

Let every heart prepare Him room, just as the song says. It's an invitation away from the confusion and chaos and into the space where God is at work. The unfolding of God's plan often happens in unlikely spaces in scripture and in our very own lives. This first week prepares us to be people of hope and believe that darkness will not prevail. This week is about preparing spiritually, reflecting on what it means to wait with hope, and to align our hearts with God's promises. Let every heart prepare Him room this week. He came near to us. He is God with us, and that gives us hope.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 11:1-5, Jeremiah 23:5-6, Micah 5:2, Psalm 72: 10-11, Psalm 80, Romans 15:4-6, James 5:7-8

#### **Week 2: Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> – Peace**

Jesus said, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19b, NIV). During periods of stress and anxiety, we are encouraged to invite peace into our lives. It is when we accept a spirit of peace that we are transformed and able to embrace Jesus, the Prince of Peace. This week, focus on the peace that Jesus brings to our hearts and to the world. Remember the preparations made in Bethlehem for the arrival of the Savior as well as the humble and quiet circumstances of His birth. This week, let every heart prepare Him room, for He left eternity and arrived on earth for you, for me. He is Immanuel, God with us, and that gives us peace.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7, Psalm 122, Luke 1:26-38, Luke 2:1-7, Romans 1:1-7, Philippians 2:5-11.

### **Week 3: Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> – Joy**

Rejoice! This third week focuses our attention on joy. Joy is a very real and deep happiness that is rooted in faith and trust. In this third week of advent, we pause and reflect on the joy that filled the shepherds' hearts when the angels announced Jesus' birth declaring "good news of great joy for all people" (Luke 2:10). Let every heart prepare Him room this week. Reflect on the profound nature of Jesus' birth that those tiny fingers would eventually stretch out on a cross. God chose to come to earth in the humblest way. He lived a modest life and yet died a humiliating death. All for us. Again, let every heart prepare Him room this week. This week is an invitation to experience true joy. Not just receiving God's love but by actively sharing it with those around us.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 65:18, Psalm 146, Colossians 1:19-20, John 3:16-17, Luke 2: 8-20

### **Week 4: Sunday December 21st – Love**

In our last week of Advent, we are invited to experience the love of Christ as demonstrated by God sending His son to the world. Recall the angel's message proclaiming Christ's birth to the shepherds. The angel announced that Jesus came out of God's great love for humanity, fulfilling His promise to redeem us. During this season, let's lean into God's love, allowing it to fill our hearts and overflow to others. Imagine how much brighter Christmas can be when we let Christ shine through us and let love guide our words, our actions, and our relationships. This is the heart of Christmas, receiving God's love and sharing it in ways that bring hope, peace, and joy to those around us. Let every heart prepare Him room this week as we reflect on the sacrificial and unconditional love of God who sent His only son that we might be saved. Remembering Christmas is ultimately a celebration of God's immense love for each and every one of us.

Scripture Reading: John 3:16-17, John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:9-16, Luke 1:46-55, Matthew 1:22-23