

Sharing
God's
Dream



2021 Advent Devotional



Sharing God's Dream

Advent marks the beginning of a new Christian liturgical year. During this season, we are invited to enter into the darkness, to watch, wonder and prepare the way for God's in-breaking among us. This year, Community Church will spend time with the awe-filled, inspiring and sometimes challenging dreams and visions that emerge throughout the scriptures surrounding the birth of Jesus. As we enter into the stories with each character, imagining their reactions and praying with them, how might these stories help us prepare the way for God's dream to come to life in the world?

How to Use This Devotional

This all-ages devotional booklet is a companion for your Advent and Christmas journey and can be used however you need. It can be used for a solo time of meditation, or with a friend, or with your whole household. You might use it every day or only on Sundays to mark the beginning of a new week in Advent. You might use it in the morning, midday or at night. If you can, you are invited to set up some kind of sacred space, it can be simple, for the Advent and Christ candles. This can be the place of prayer that you come to each time.

The Weekly Devotional Practice

Each week in Advent and Christmas, you will be invited to Share God's Dream in four ways:

Read – Each week offers a scripture reading to guide your meditation. If you do not have a Bible on hand, you can look up the text on <https://www.biblegateway.com/>. The New Living Translation and the New Revised Standard Version are both helpful translations to read from.

Pray – As you light each candle, you are invited to lift up the words that our faith ancestors prayed when they encountered God's dream moving in their lives.

Wonder – These questions are an invitation to go deeper into the dreamy places God is calling you. They can be used as prompts for journaling, conversation, silence or movement meditations.

Practice – Through movement, art, spiritual engagement, ritual and action, each practice is a way to share God's dream with your whole being: mind, body and spirit.

May this Advent and Christmas journey lead you into the dark, wonder-filled places where God's dreams for the world take their first breath.

- Pastor Lacey

Advent 1: God's Dream of Hope

November 28 – December 4



Read Luke 1: 5-25



Pray We pray with Zechariah as we light the candle of hope:

*By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*



Wonder

Have you had a dream that you doubted?
How did you respond if the dream came true?



Practice

Zachariah was going about his regular day, taking care of his daily tasks. Imagine Zachariah's mind drifting off into a daydream and in the midst of his dreaming, he heard a message coming to him, some might say from an angel of God. This week, find the places in your home where you go about your daily activities (ex. the fridge handle, a bathroom mirror). Each day, place a note that says, "Remember to Dream." Pay attention to what messages might be coming to you in the midst of your daily tasks. You could even take a moment to write them down in a dream journal.



Advent 2: God's Dream of Peace

December 5 – December 11



Read Matthew 1:18-24



Pray We pray with Joseph as we light the candle of peace:

*Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Holy One is my strength and my might;
and has become my salvation.*

With joy I will draw water from the wells of salvation.

- Isaiah 12:2-3



Wonder

Have you ever had a dream that gave you the courage
to do something you were afraid of?
What was it and what did you do?



Practice

Joseph was scared about all that was changing in his life and what new things were being expected of him. Imagine him feeling small and afraid. The words of the angel in his dream gave him the courage to share God's dream even though things might get difficult. Take a moment to think about what it feels like in your body when you are afraid. What's a posture you might take when you're scared? Practice it. Now remember what it feels like in your body to feel courageous. What's a posture you might take (ex. imagine superhero poses)? Practice moving from scared to courageous.

PEACE



Advent 3: God's Dream of Joy

December 12 – December 18



Read Luke 1:26-38, 46-55



Pray We pray with Mary as we light the candle of joy:

*Oh, how my soul magnifies the Lord.
How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!
For God took notice of God's servant
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.
For the Mighty One is holy,
and has done great things for me.*



Wonder

Do you remember a dream that made the impossible seem possible?
What was God's invitation to you in that dream?



Practice

As Mary continues to notice the ways that God is making impossible things possible in her life, in Elizabeth's life, in the life of the world, she is compelled to sing. The first thing she sings is, "My soul magnifies the Lord," because she recognizes that she has a role in making God's love bigger in the world, in other words, magnifying God's love. Each day, take a moment to look at something really close up (if you have a magnifying glass, use it). What do you notice? What is it teaching you about magnifying God's love as a way of sharing God's dream in the world?



Advent 4: God's Dream of Love

December 19 – December 24



Read Luke 2:25-38



Pray We pray with Anna & Simeon as we light the candle of love:

*I have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared for all people.
A light to reveal God to the nations,
and the glory of your people!*



Wonder

Have you had a dream come true?
What has that felt like and what did it make you want to do?



Practice

Anna and Simeon spent their whole lives holding onto a dream. What are the dreams you want to hold onto? Take some time to collect or draw images and use them to create a dream/vision board. Place that dream board somewhere you can regularly see it and return to it as a way of keeping that ways you want to share in God's dreams before you.



Christmas: God's Dream of Light

December 25 – January 5



Read Luke 2:8-20



Pray We pray with the shepherds as we light the Christ candle:

*Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth!*



Wonder

What might you need to do to respond to your dreams?
What are concrete ways you can share in God's dream?



Practice

After encountering God's dream through the angels' message, living and breathing and singing in the world, the shepherds get up and go. They were moved by that dream to set off on a new journey. What divine dream is guiding your footsteps on a new journey? Use chalk, a marker or a crayon to write that dream on the bottom of your shoe. Remember each step you take can be you moving to share God's dream.



