

Advent 2013, Week Three!

As we continue in the Advent Season, take a moment or two to reflect on the Second Week and your prayers and creative exercises. What went well for you? Was there a particular exercise in prayer, drawing or writing that continues to be an encouragement to you?

We're getting close to Christmas Day! Be careful of getting caught up and stressed in the holiday details! **Breathe deep.**

While thinking of how your devotions went last week, how would you envision changes in the coming week? How could it be better? How could it be more full and more rich in meaning and depth?

Christ is coming! Christ is among us! Christ awaits us!

Dec. 15, John 1:1-14, Word Made Flesh.

Creative Focus: Humanity.

God loved and desired us enough to enter flesh and dwell with us. Have you considered the drive of love and desire of knowing us that would push God to such lengths? How should we think of ourselves in the light of God's love? How then also should we consider others?

Dec. 16, Luke 2:8-16, Shepherds.

Creative Focus: Daily Grind.

Those shepherds were just doing their job, and the angels filled the sky for them! You may think today is just another day as you troop off to work or to school, but this is God's day! We may not see angels in the heavens, but can we hear the song of joy? Can we sing it? Can today be that kind of day?

Dec. 17, Luke 2:8-16, Angels.

Creative Focus: Praise.

Listen to the song of the angels! Is today a good day to sing? Is it a good day to write a hymn of praise? Is today a good day to capture the praise of God in a photo, in a painting or in a poem? Cut loose! Let the joy of the message and the energy of the angelic chorus move you!



Dec. 18, Luke 1:46-55, Mary's Song.

Creative Focus: Promises.

Mary sings a song of promise, of promises being kept! Listen to the themes of which she sings: God's mindfulness of us, God's mercy, God's great deeds, God filling the hungry, God remembering! How do these themes move in you, today? Does one stand out?

Dec. 19, Luke 2:21-35, Simeon.

Creative Focus: Waiting.

Simeon had waited and waited in the Temple. He was waiting, the text says, for the "consolation" of Israel. He waited and he waited. And then he held Jesus in his arms. Consolation. What does the word mean to you? What consolation do you wait to receive? What consolations do we wait for in our homes, communities, countries and world?

Dec. 20, Luke 2:36-38, Anna the Prophet!

Creative Focus: Fasting & Praying.

Anna also waited for Christ to arrive. She waited with fasting and prayer. When did you last fast and pray? Have you waited for someone or something so badly and in such a focussed way that you fasted from other things? Fasting is a way to treasure something, even something you're waiting for... fasting removes all the other clutter of life. Have you fasted lately?

Dec. 21, Matthew 2:1-12, Our King Has Come.

Creative Focus: Royalty & Kingdom.

The story of the Magi is exciting for many reasons. The story reminds us that all of this was foretold and awaited by the nation of Israel. The story reminds us that even those far away were given signs and called to come and worship the Christ. It reminds us that however we are used to government and the powers of this world being ordered, **we have a king**. We have a sovereign Lord who has come to reign over our lives and call us to service and a place in his kingdom. How is this part of my life, today?

