

Advent 2013, Week Two!

As we continue in the Advent Season, take a moment or two to reflect on the First 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?



Now, 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 fuller and more rich in meaning and depth?

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

Dec. 8, Luke 2:1-5, Caesar Wants a Head Count.

Creative Focus: Citizenship.

Citizenship means many different things to different people. In scripture we are told that we have a citizenship in heaven, but we're also taught to be good citizens of our earthly homes. What does citizenship mean to you?

Dec. 9, Luke 2:4-7, The Birth in Bethlehem.

Creative Focus: Hometown.

Where's your hometown? What's it like to visit there? I'm always a little surprised that Joseph and Mary go to his hometown, his family's place, for the census but don't have an option for housing other than being stabled with the livestock. Maybe going back to the old hometown isn't always what we expect it to be like?

Dec. 10, Matthew 1:22-25, Fulfilling Scripture.

Creative Focus: Youth.

It's easy to forget sometimes that Mary is so young when she becomes wrapped up in the story. There's lots of tradition and speculation about Joseph's age, but we find Mary as a young girl, engaged and looking forward to life as any young girl might. What were your dreams in youth? If you're still there, what are you dreaming about for the years to come? Many people have commented that youth is both an age range and a state of mind... what do you think?

Dec. 11, Luke 2:1-7, No Room at The Inn!

Creative Focus: Travel.

Do you like to travel? What's your favorite way to go: planes, trains or automobiles? What do you enjoy most about travel? What challenges you most about travel? Have you ever had to travel at a tough time of life like Mary and Joseph?

Dec. 12, Luke 2:1-7 Stabled With the Livestock.

Creative Focus: Contentment.

We've really been over these few verses haven't we? Have you ever noticed that we make a bigger deal of the whole "humble" manger scene than scripture seems to do? Maybe Mary and Joseph were content to have a warm safe place? How much is enough?

Dec. 13, Matthew 2:1-2, A Shining Star!

Creative Focus: Guidance.

Where do you look for guidance? What signs do you see and follow? I'm not sure we all get to spot a star and follow it across the globe, but how is God pointing to things in your life? Where are the bright lights? Where is life most illuminated, and where are truths and treasures made obvious to you?

Dec. 14, John 1:1-14, In The Beginning.

Creative Focus: Beginnings.

While it's true that John's gospel doesn't give us the birth narrative, he chooses as Mark does to simply present Jesus to us at the beginning of his public ministry, John is hardly skipping over the beginning of the story. Instead of a baby in manger, John takes us all the back to the beginning of creation, when Jesus was part of God's bringing it all into being. John roots Jesus in the arrival of life, in the beginning of beginnings. What have been the important beginnings in your life? What has Jesus begun in you?

