

Good News of Great Joy for All People!



Advent Devotional Project

Good News Church Family,

This is an invitation for you to join in helping to create an Advent Devotional made up entirely of reflections and stories from 31 people who are a part of our Good News Church family. Let us know if you're willing to participate.

INSTRUCTIONS

The following instructions are intended as a guide. Feel free to be creative. All we ask is that you include a verse, a reflection, a bit about yourself, and a photo. Everything should fit on one typed page (350 words or less) with 1" margins and a 12-font size (preferably Aptos or Calibri). *FYI... This page of instructions is approximately 385 words, including the title. :)*

Deadline (Sunday, November 10)

Please email your verse, reflection and photo to laura@goodnewschurchga.com by Sunday, Nov. 10 (the sooner the better). In order to avoid repetition, please confirm the verse(s) you plan to focus on. For questions, feel free to contact Laura at 770-364-4143.

Scripture Reflection

We're not looking for anything deeply theological, but mostly just a paragraph of your own personal reflections on a verse of scripture that's meaningful to you. You can choose whatever verse of scripture you'd like. It doesn't have to be a "Christmas-related verse". You can write about a favorite verse, a life verse, a verse that jumped out in a recent Bible reading, or an Advent themed verse. Whatever verse you choose, it would be good to write your reflections through the lens of Christmas, but that's not required. *NOTE: For a list of verses that are common to Advent devotionals, see "Crescendo to Christmas" on the attached document. Feel free to choose any of these verses.*

About You

We're asking everyone to include a few sentences helping us get to know each other a little better personally.

1. Where were you born? Where did you grow up? (brief answer)
2. Was faith and church a part of your upbringing? (brief answer)
3. Lastly, share a little about your faith experience. For example, you could write briefly about how you came to experience the rescuing love of Christ, how you've experienced God's comforting presence in your life, etc.

Photo

Please include a photo so that we can help everyone put a face with a name. Your photo can be just of you individually or you with your spouse and/or family.

Crescendo to Christmas

Scriptures Foretell the Messiah's Birth

by Drue Warner

Thinking about Christmas... Did you know that 700 years before Messiah was born, Isaiah and the prophets gave us clues to identify Messiah when he came? For fun, I'll share some of these Old Testament verses over the next 25 days in a "Crescendo to Christmas."

Best Clues: #1 Born of a virgin #2 from the tribe of Judah #3 from the line of David #4 born in Bethlehem #5 called out of Egypt #6 speak in parables #7 name would be Immanuel, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace #7 a light to all the nations (Jews & Gentiles)

December 1

"I will bless those who bless you (Abraham) and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." – Genesis 12:3 (1800 – 1445 BC)

December 2

I see him (Messiah), but not here and now. I perceive him, but far in the distant future. A star will rise from Jacob; a scepter (signifying a reigning king) will emerge from Israel. – Numbers 24:17 (1440 – 1400 BC)

December 3

The scepter (signifying a reigning king) will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor. – Genesis 49:10

December 4

The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived. – Numbers 21:8-9

December 5

Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot— yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root. And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment. – Isaiah 11:1, 5 (740-687 BC)

December 6

The Lord (YHWH God) said to my (David) Lord (Ruler / Messiah), "Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet." – Psalm 110:1

December 7

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt.”
– Hosea 11:1 (710 BC)

December 8

“For the time is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David’s line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. And this will be his name: ‘The Lord Is Our Righteousness.’ In that day Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety.” - Jeremiah 23:5-6 (686-527 BC)

December 9

Moses continued, “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him. – Deuteronomy 18:15, 18 (1405 BC)

December 10

“The day is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. – Jeremiah 31:31

December 11

“Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. I will make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David.
– Isaiah 55:3

December 12

In that day the heir to David’s throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world.
– Isaiah 11:10

December 13

“And now the Lord speaks— the one who formed me in my mother’s womb to be his servant, who commissioned me to bring Israel back to him. The Lord has honored me, and my God has given me strength. He says, “You will do more than restore the people of Israel to me. I will make you a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.” – Isaiah 49:5,6

December 14

All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance.
– Isaiah 60:3

December 15

My servant grew up in the Lord’s presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. – Isaiah 53:2

December 16

“For I (Messiah) will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past.” – Psalm 78:2

December 17

And when he (Messiah) comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!
– Isaiah 35:5-6

December 18

Who but God goes up to heaven and comes back down? Who holds the wind in his fists? Who wraps up the oceans in his cloak? Who has created the whole wide world? What is his name—and his son’s name? Tell me if you know! -- Proverbs 30:4

December 19

The Lord looked and was displeased to find there was no justice. He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So he himself stepped in to save them with his strong arm, and his justice sustained him. He put on righteousness as his body armor and placed the helmet of salvation on his head. He clothed himself with a robe of vengeance and wrapped himself in a cloak of divine passion. – Isaiah 59:15-17

December 20

“Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations.” – Isaiah 42:1

December 21

The Lord has taken an oath and will not break his vow: “You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.” – Psalm 110:4

December 22

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past.
– Micah 5:2 (700 BC)

December 23

The Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’). – Isaiah 7:14

December 24

For unto us a child is born, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. – Isaiah 9:6

December 25

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

– Luke 2:10-14

December 26

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. – John 1:14

December 27

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. – John 1:18

December 28

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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

– Luke 2:25-32

December 29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! – John 1:29

December 30

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” – John 3:15

December 31

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. – John 3:16-17