

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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# Welcome the King

ADVENT 2022



Capital Pres Family



<sup>1</sup> *But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.*

<sup>2</sup> *The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.*

<sup>3</sup> *You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.*

<sup>4</sup> *For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

<sup>5</sup> *For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.*

<sup>6</sup> *For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

<sup>7</sup> *Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

—

Isaiah 9:1-7

## WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent is a liturgical rhythm which anticipates the coming of Christ. For four Sundays a year, we give special attention to the manner in which our Savior came to us: the transcendent, almighty Lord of heaven drawing near as a baby boy, the son of Mary and son of God.

This year our Advent devotional will pause on the titles Christ is given in Isaiah 9:6. Each week's devotional opens with a reflection written by a member of our church family who has a personal connection with that title for Christ. What follows is a simple daily devotional guide meant to be visited throughout your week. We encourage you to involve your family, friends, roommates, or Community Group as you meditate on the Word of God, worship him through songs, and engage with him in prayer through this devotional.

Advent is not merely sentimental or reminiscent. Its primary aim is to point us to the risen Jesus who will one day return in glory. Let this season of remembrance fuel your longing for Christ's second coming and fill your heart with gratitude for the King who calls us to follow him!

In Christ,  
Patrick Quinn  
*Pastoral Intern of Worship*

## INTRODUCTION: “AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED...”

*Reflection by Dr. Randy Newman, Senior Fellow for Apologetics and Evangelism at the C.S. Lewis Institute.  
Worships with Capital Presbyterian Fairfax.*

The most astonishing truth of Christmas is that God himself came to be with us. But it’s a truth we can easily lose amidst all the other messages at Christmastime — both the celebratory and commercial ones.

When Isaiah met with the frightened King Ahaz (read Isaiah 7-11 for the full picture), the prophet assured the king that the enemy armies which gathered against him posed no threat. Why? Because “God is with us.” Whenever anyone turns to sources of trust other than God, they fail to find lasting hope, satisfactory forgiveness, and eternal salvation. That was true for King Ahaz who was tempted to trust in political alliances, and it’s true for us when we rely on human solutions that cannot satisfy or save. We need to trust in the God who is “with us”.

Immanuel is one Hebrew word translated as the statement, “God is with us,” and Isaiah repeats it several times in these chapters. He also lifts his eyes and sees beyond his contemporary setting to a long-term vision. When we read the Old Testament prophets, we observe a pattern. They saw their near-term settings as foreshadowings of long-term fulfillments. It’s almost as if they wore spiritual trifocals. Through one part of the lens, they saw what God was doing right there and then in their place and time. As they looked through another part of the lens, they saw how their immediate circumstances foreshadowed events in the future. And often, they lifted their eyes to another part of the lens and saw everything pointing to eternal realities.

Thus, the words to Ahaz that “God is with us” pointed to a short-term deliverance that God was about to bring in Ahaz’s day — within a few short years after Isaiah spoke to them. That God-is-with-us-message also pointed to a later time when, in the most tangible way, God would be with us, in the arrival of Jesus, born as a baby in Bethlehem. But that event was also a down payment of the greatest God-is-with-us-reality when Jesus returns and we will be with him all eternity! The immediate pointed to the distant which points to the eternal.

At the very heart of Isaiah 7-11, we see the high point of this prophetic vision in chapter 9:1-7. Isaiah points to the past when the dominant realities in the land — gloom, distress, darkness, oppression, war of the bloodiest kind, and the shadow of death — shift dramatically to light, joy, victory, liberation, and peace. Why? Because someone has come who, though a mere child, will be revealed to be God himself. His presence will bring peace — first to individuals who place their trust in him and then ultimately to the whole world that will be made new by him.

Astonishingly, Isaiah bestows on this child four exalted titles — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace — all of which point to his deity. Indeed it is God — in all of his wisdom, power, lovingkindness, and sovereignty — who is with us.

Christmas looks to the past and rejoices in the incarnation. God came down to be with us. But it also— gloriously, expectantly, joyfully — looks to the future when our Messiah returns and sits on his throne and reigns with peace, justice, and righteousness “from this time forth and forevermore”. No wonder the angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest!”

# WEEK 1: WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

**NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 3**

*Reflection by Margie Watkins, Lay Counselor. Worships with McLean Presbyterian Church.*

Isaiah 9:6 cannot be read; it must be sung. At least, I can't merely read it, and I am always moved by the piling up of names in verse 6. Because I have been serving as a lay counselor at our church for a couple of years now, I find that "Wonderful Counselor" has new depths of meaning, and I was asked as a lay counselor to reflect on Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor using, perhaps, Psalm 16.

But a funny thing happened on the way to Psalm 16: I read Psalm 18, and was captured by its power and its perspective. What I found there was a breathtaking account of a king's winning battle, a king who stood amazed by the fact that it was God who provided shelter, God who rescued, and God who won.

Listen to how the king speaks of God: "The Lord is my rock. . . my shield. . . my stronghold. . ." Then follows the description of the way God intervened on behalf of his people, and the king describes it as if he were simply an awestruck observer rather than himself a warrior king: "the earth reeled and rocked...glowing coals flamed from him. . . he rode on a cherub. . . came swiftly on the wings of the wind. . . the foundations of the world were laid bare. . ." The psalmist explains why God came with all that sound and fury: ". . . he rescued me because he delighted in me."

I was completely stopped by that phrase "because he delighted in me." Not because he needed me to learn my lesson (although there are indeed lessons to be learned), not because he needed to make an impression on the enemies of his people (though he certainly did that), but because this great and awesome God found it delightful to call on his whole creation to rescue the one he loves.

It is a good counselor who listens attentively and speaks thoughtfully, but the counselor who also enters into the battle powerfully and effectively is truly wonderful. This Counselor is not one who has to wring his hands and wonder how in the world this child of his is going to grow through a particular struggle, but is one who is already rolling up his sleeves and warming up the chariot to work on my behalf. And why? Because he takes delight in me. Astonishing.

And are there battles in counseling? You bet. Counselor and counselee alike are fighting their own sin, brokenness, and injury — as well as temptations to become cynical when God's work is not clear or quick, to become self-righteous, or defensive, or angry, or a whole host of pride-based reactions. But read this Psalm again — feel the quaking of the earth, hear the wind and see the flames, and know that our Wonderful Counselor is also the rock, the stronghold, the mighty warrior. And this Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend delights in us. Amazing.

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Inspired by Isaiah 55:8 and Colossians 1:15-20*

Heavenly Father, your ways are high above our own and your thoughts are far beyond what we can imagine. Thank you for sending your Son to be your perfect image in the world. Give us insight through your word and by your Spirit that we might know you as Lord and Savior. We pray this in the name of our Wonderful Counselor, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## DAILY READING

MONDAY *Psalm 139*

TUESDAY *Isaiah 11:1-10*

WEDNESDAY *Matthew 13:53-56*

THURSDAY *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

FRIDAY *Revelation 5:6-14*

## MEDITATION QUESTIONS

- How does this passage of Scripture reveal God as our Wonderful Counselor? How can you worship him as a Wonderful Counselor?
- How does this passage shine light on your need of God as a Wonderful Counselor? Where do you feel called to repentance?
- Where can you find an opportunity to thank God for what he has done in this passage? How has God as a Wonderful Counselor rescued you from sin?
- Who might the Holy Spirit be putting on your heart to pray for as you read this passage? Who might need to hear the good news that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor?

## PRAYER OF RESPONSE

God of all wisdom, you call us out of the darkness and confusion of sin into your glorious light. Help us to understand the meaning of your word and guide us as we go about our days, that we might live according to your perfect counsel. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## SONGS

*Use the QR code to access our Capital Pres Family Advent playlist, and queue these songs this week:*

- "Beautiful Savior (All My Days)"
- "Sovereign Over Us"
- "Emmanuel (God with Us Forever)"



## WEEK 2: MIGHTY GOD

DECEMBER 4 - 10

*Reflection by Robert Hamd, Global Mission Partner (The Philemon Project).*

The late David Bosch, in his book *Transforming Mission*, wrote, “The harsh realities of today compel us to reconceive and reformulate the church’s mission, to do this boldly and imaginatively.” (Bosch) Situated in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Beirut, the Philemon Project’s GROW Early Childhood Development and Adult Mentoring Center boldly and imaginatively serves Syrian refugees, migrant workers, and underserved Lebanese children and their parents with the whole gospel. The harsh realities of our Lebanese context include a poverty rate close to 80% because of the devaluation of the Lebanese currency, a breakdown in the infrastructure of the country (including rolling electricity blackouts), and millions of Syrian refugees and migrant workers who suffer the most under the plight of the economic crisis.

Rima (name has been changed) came into The Philemon Project GROW Center to enroll her 18-month-old daughter into our Early Childhood Education program. Nairy, our coordinator, noticed that Rima was very distressed. Over the next few weeks, Nairy learned that Rima was a Kurdish refugee living in a small, one-room apartment with five other families, none of whom were her own relatives. Nairy brought Rima into my office and asked me to pray with them. Rima’s prayer requests were that God would: provide a job, find an apartment for her and her daughter, and bring her husband — who was in Turkey trying to get to Germany for work — back to Lebanon.

It was hard for me to believe that any of these prayers would be answered, because I know the situation in Lebanon. Very rarely are Syrian/Kurdish refugees given work permits; getting an apartment is expensive and difficult, especially for a single mother with no job; and her husband was desperate to get to Germany to find work to provide for his family. Rima’s situation and others like hers are dire and often without hope. It is easy to fall into the temptation of unbelief. The situation is so overwhelming that we can think that there is no solution.

Several weeks later, Rima came into the center to pick up her daughter, beaming with joy. “I got a job!” she shared with our staff. About a month later, Rima reported that she found an apartment. Several months later, she brought her husband to the center, who had returned to Lebanon because he found a job locally, and was able to be with his wife and baby daughter.

Rima brought her husband into my office, sat down and elbowed him in his ribs: “These are the people who prayed with me, who took our daughter into the center and cared for her when no one else would. These are the people who taught me that Jesus is the Mighty God. These are the people who are Christians, and so am I. You cannot take that away from me.”

The prophet Isaiah tells us that a child has been born for us, a son is given to us, and “He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace.” This Advent, the message of Isaiah invites us to accept the Child as the Mighty God. The impact of the GROW center in children’s and parents’ lives demonstrates that Jesus is the Mighty God. God’s provision for Rima, her daughter, and her husband led Rima to put her faith in Jesus as her Mighty God. And God’s answer to my own prayers, even offered in doubt, reminded me that Jesus is indeed the Mighty God.

*Bosch, David Jacobus. Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission. Orbis Books, 1991.*

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Inspired by Hebrews 1:1-4*

Mighty and merciful Father, you have spoken to us by your Son, whom you appointed the heir of all things and through whom you created the world. Christ, you are the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and you uphold the universe by the word of your power. By your Spirit, show us your glory through these words of Scripture. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

## DAILY READING

MONDAY *Exodus 15:1-18*

TUESDAY *Psalms 24*

WEDNESDAY *Mark 4:35-41*

THURSDAY *Colossians 1:15-20*

FRIDAY *Revelation 19:11-16*

## MEDITATION QUESTIONS

- How does this passage of Scripture reveal God as mighty? How can you worship him as a Mighty God?
- How does this passage shine light on your need of a Mighty God? Where do you feel called to repentance?
- Where can you find an opportunity to thank God for what he has done in this passage? How has our Mighty God rescued you from sin?
- Who might the Holy Spirit be putting on your heart to pray for as you read this passage? Who might need to hear the good news that Jesus is our Mighty God?

## PRAYER OF RESPONSE

*A prayer attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux*

O God, whose greatness knows no limits, whose wisdom knows no bounds, whose peace excels all understanding; you love and help us beyond measure — help us to love you. Though we cannot fully do so because of your infinite goodness, increase and deepen our understanding so that we may love you more and more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SONGS

*Use the QR code to access our Capital Pres Family Advent playlist, and queue these songs this week:*

- “Glorious and Mighty”
- “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
- “He Who is Mighty”



## WEEK 3: EVERLASTING FATHER

DECEMBER 11 - 17

*Reflection by Martha Roszak, Asst. Director of Capital Fellows. Worships with McLean Presbyterian Church.*

This name for Jesus, the coming Christ, is one that resonates with me personally. At the age of eleven, I lost my earthly father to cancer. Now in my late twenties, I've spent more years living without him than I did with him. I am acutely aware that our fathers — in all their strengths and in all their shortcomings — do not live forever.

Facing the mortality of those that we love, of ourselves, and even of intangible things we hold dear, like dreams or desires that go unfulfilled, causes deep grief within us. In his commentary on Psalm 90, Matthew Henry writes, "We are dying creatures, and all our comforts in the world are dying comforts. . ." Psalms 90 and 103 affirm this, saying that our lives are like "grass that fades and withers," "dust," "a sigh," like a flood that's swept away, even just "a dream."

I don't know about you, but reading those words to describe my life feels almost offensive. I put a lot of emotional, physical, and mental energy into ensuring my days are good and comfortable; and when good things, people, or events come my way, I don't ever want them to end. Yet both of these Psalms poetically and somewhat painfully remind us that they will: this life is not forever. Thankfully, though death is certain, it is not final.

We are, indeed, "those living in the land of deep darkness," but we are also those who "have seen a great light," those on whom "a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2). The prophet Isaiah announces with such surety and strength the nature of the God coming to take on flesh as One who is an "Everlasting Father." We can take comfort in his immortality. He is an ever-living God.

What's more, he is not out to just impress us with his immortality. Rather, he generously extends immortality to us through the undeserved gift of his son, Jesus, this prophesied Messiah. By believing that he truly came to earth, died a death we deserve, and was raised again, we, too, "shall not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

If we believe this, we have no reason to fear our lives being only "a sigh." Instead, it is precisely in acknowledging the fleetingness of our lives (what Moses in Psalm 90 calls "numbering our days") that we gain "hearts of wisdom," hearts of faith, trusting in the things unseen — even in God and life after death.

In his book, *Life of the Beloved*, priest, professor, and theologian Henri Nouwen writes profoundly:

*Am I afraid to die? I am every time I let myself be seduced by the noisy voices of my world telling me that my "little life" is all I have and advising me to cling to it with all my might. But when I let these voices move to the background of my life and listen to that small soft voice calling me the [beloved], I know that there is nothing to fear and that dying is the greatest act of love, the act that leads me into the eternal embrace of my God whose love is everlasting.*

God is not only "everlasting," but he is also "Father," the One to whom even the best earthly fathers merely point.

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Inspired by John 17:20-26*

Father, we thank you for the prayers of your Son, who desires for us to see his glory that you have given him because you loved him before the foundation of the world. Jesus made known to us your name, and continues to make it known, that the love with which you have loved Christ may be in us, and he himself be in us. May the Spirit of Christ illuminate our minds and soften our hearts through the reading of your word so that we might know you as Father just as Christ does. We pray this in his name, Amen.

## DAILY READING

MONDAY *Psalm 90*

TUESDAY *Isaiah 44:6-8*

WEDNESDAY *John 10:22-30*

THURSDAY *Romans 8:12-25*

FRIDAY *Revelation 21:5-7*

## MEDITATION QUESTIONS

- How does this passage of Scripture reveal God as our Everlasting Father? How can you worship him as an Everlasting Father?
- How does this passage shine light on your need of God as an Everlasting Father? Where do you feel called to repentance?
- Where can you find an opportunity to thank God for what he has done in this passage? How has God as an Everlasting Father rescued you from sin?
- Who might the Holy Spirit be putting on your heart to pray for as you read this passage? Who might need to hear the good news that Jesus is our Everlasting Father?

## PRAYER OF RESPONSE

*The Lord's Prayer, Matt 6:5-14 ESV*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## SONGS

*Use the QR code to access our Capital Pres Family Advent playlist, and queue these songs this week:*

- "How Deep The Father's Love For Us"
- "Goodness of God"
- "Noel"



## WEEK 4: PRINCE OF PEACE

**DECEMBER 18 - 24**

*Reflection by Patrick Quinn, Pastoral Intern of Worship. Worships with Capital Presbyterian Fairfax.*

Anxiety has been an unwelcome companion of mine for as long as I can remember. Its urgent, nagging voice always has something to talk about. In elementary school, anxiety's call would keep me up for hours at night. I had hoped that voice would shrink to a whisper and fade with time, but as I grew older, anxiety grew with me. Every stranger was a threat. Every cramp or pain was a symptom of a fatal illness. Every test felt like a capstone project, every paper was a senior thesis. I was so overwhelmed with anxiety, I couldn't tell the difference between its voice and my own.

The first panic attack I remember having was on a Friday morning in September 2013. It was my senior year of high school and college applications were due that day, but I hadn't been able to put finger to keyboard yet. Whenever I sat down to write, the only words I could think of were ones anxiety would shout: "You're running out of time, you better write something!" and "Your whole future hangs on this!" and "You know you have nothing to write about, anyway!" The hours I spent staring at a blank Word document had cut into my homework time, and so I was already behind on school work three weeks into the year. Sitting in the parking lot of Oakton High School, I couldn't bring myself to get out of the car. Instead, I turned it back on, pulled out of the parking lot, and drove straight to McLean Presbyterian Church.

This church has been a second home for me my whole life. Its Sanctuary has always lived up to its name—a place of refuge and safety. In a world with so many voices, our church was the place I could come and hear the one voice I could trust: God's word, spoken through his people. I knew that's what I needed to hear. I couldn't tell the difference between my own voice and anxiety's screams. But Jesus' voice was different.

I sat in one of the white rocking chairs overlooking the Lodge for fifteen or twenty minutes until I heard a door open behind me. Ed Baumann, the church's Facilities Director at the time (and the husband of my AP Government teacher, whose class I was currently skipping) came out, sat beside me, and asked me what I was doing there. As we sat and talked and eventually prayed together, my anxiety grew quiet. Ed was not a pastor, but he was a brother in Christ who could share Jesus' words with me.

I have always been struck by the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples after his resurrection in John 20. After enduring the anxiety of death and all the chaos of hell, Jesus rose as the King of kings, the crowned Prince of heaven who was victorious over all his enemies. And the first words this champion king spoke to his fearful disciples was "Peace be with you." Against all their anxiety, Jesus' words cut through with perfect clarity and authority.

I don't remember exactly what Ed and I talked about that morning, but I do know we prayed for peace. That was not my last panic attack. Anxiety still cries loudly in my head with annoying regularity. But just as often as anxiety screams, Christ and his Church are quick to speak peace to my heart. Those simple, calm, victorious words "Peace be with you" set me at ease because I know the One who speaks them even now, to anxious disciples like myself. He is the Prince of Peace.

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Inspired by Luke 1:67–80*

Blessed are you, God of Israel, for you have visited and redeemed your people. You bring salvation through your Son Jesus and deliver your people from all our enemies. You have shown mercy to us and have remembered your covenant so that we might serve you without fear in holiness and righteousness all our days. By your Spirit, give us ears to hear and hearts to receive the word of peace you spoke through the mouth of your holy prophets and apostles. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our horn of salvation. Amen.

## DAILY READING

MONDAY *Psalm 85*

TUESDAY *Isaiah 2:1–5*

WEDNESDAY *John 20:19–23*

THURSDAY *Ephesians 2:11–22*

FRIDAY *Revelation 21:1–4*

## MEDITATION QUESTIONS

- How does this passage of Scripture reveal God as the Prince of Peace? How can you worship him as a Prince of Peace?
- How does this passage shine light on your need of a Prince of Peace? Where do you feel called to repentance?
- Where can you find an opportunity to thank God for what he has done in this passage? How has the Prince of Peace rescued you from sin?
- Who might the Holy Spirit be putting on your heart to pray for as you read this passage? Who might need to hear the good news that Jesus is our Prince of Peace?

## PRAYER OF RESPONSE

*A prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

## SONGS

Use the QR code to access our Capital Pres Family Advent playlist, and queue these songs this week:

- “Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah”
- “Forever Reign”
- “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
- “In the Bleak Midwinter”



## WHAT'S NEXT? LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRIST'S RETURN

*Reflection by Dr. Thomas Keene, Associate Professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary, Washington D.C. Worships with Capital Presbyterian Reston.*

Christmas changes everything. And let's be clear about what we mean by that. Christmas is not an idea, not an emotion or an attitude or an ethos or symbol. Christmas isn't a metaphor; it's an event. It's a fact of history. It really happened, and when it happened everything changed. The King of kings is born! For the first time in human history the whole world has a Good King. He is good in all the ways, no qualification needed: "wonderful," "wise," "strong," "father-like," "peaceful," and he would be all these things forever and ever, as the beloved Son of his glorious Father (Isaiah 9:6; Luke 3:22). That's the fundamental reality of Christmas, and as we return to Mark in the coming weeks, the implications of this will become increasingly evident: the King will come into his city, die for his people, and be raised three days later to sit on a heavenly throne (Mark 8:27-9:13).

Then Christmas is over. We go back to work and school. The lights come down, the tree is dragged out to the curb, the family starts fighting again. Old wounds are remembered, or worse: re-applied. The problems of the world assail us, and then Christmas starts to feel like it was just another day. Is December 25th special if the 26th is just like the 24th? Did everything really change with Christmas? Did anything change? And what comes next for us?

It did. We have hope now, and here's how that works.

First, we need to realize that even after Jesus' resurrection we still live in a wilderness (Hebrews 3:7-4). This is why it feels like nothing changed. "We do not yet see all things subject to him" (Heb. 2:8). Suffering, decay, loss, fear, anxiety, conflict, sadness, pain—these things abide, and they test and tempt us as we continue our journey to the promised land. Death and decay encumber this world and so the world groans to be made new (Romans 8:18-30). What next? We are called to persevere, to press on, to hold fast.

Second, though: the new world has already begun! Jesus really does sit enthroned! We may not see all things subject to him, but we do see Jesus "crowned in glory and honor" (Heb. 2:9). Things are better now. Jesus has poured out his Spirit on all flesh, he has bound the strong man, his messengers proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth, and he continually intercedes for us in a heavenly tabernacle. What next? We draw near to Jesus as he drew near to us (Heb. 10:26-29), finding comfort and help as we journey, and praying as he taught us to pray: "your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

Finally, since Christmas fulfills God's promise to "visit his people" (Luke 1:68), it is also a reminder that he will visit us again. A "rest remains" for the people of God (Heb. 4:9-11). The world will not always be a wilderness; no, an "imperishable" world awaits (1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Peter 1:7). It will be an entirely different order, with different physics and different biology and different social structures — like this world, but not merely better; truly perfect. On this new earth life cannot but flourish, and love will abide in ever increasing measure. What next? We live for the next world, even as we continue to wander in this one. We sing anew that same old song of Advent, now infused with a greater hope, "come thou long expected Jesus." He has come already, and will come again. Come Lord Jesus; come quickly!



# 2022 ADVENT SCHEDULE

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## Advent Communion Service

NOV. 27 | 5:15PM | MCLEAN

## Adults Advent Art Experience

DEC. 3 | 2PM | MCLEAN

## Live Nativity

DEC. 17 | 10AM - 12PM | MCLEAN

## Christmas Choral Concert & Reception

DEC. 18 | 7PM | MCLEAN

## Christmas Eve Services

DEC. 24

MCLEAN | 4PM FAMILY, 6PM & 8PM CANDLELIGHT | ROOMS VARY

FAIRFAX | 6PM CANDLELIGHT | STACY C. SHERWOOD CENTER

RESTON | 6PM CANDLELIGHT | HYATT REGENCY, RESTON TOWN CENTER

## Christmas Day Services

DEC. 25 | 5:15PM

MCLEAN | SANCTUARY

FAIRFAX | MANTUA SWIM & TENNIS CLUB

RESTON | HYATT REGENCY, RESTON TOWN CENTER

*Find all event details for each site at:*

*[mclean.capitalpres.org/advent](http://mclean.capitalpres.org/advent)*

*[fairfax.capitalpres.org/advent](http://fairfax.capitalpres.org/advent)*

*[reston.capitalpres.org/advent](http://reston.capitalpres.org/advent)*



Capital Pres Family