

MORNING: TRUST

PRAY

New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us the desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

READ

Our theme for this Advent season is *The Child*. Each morning we invite you to meditate on or focus on trust: the bond of trust between adults and children, between God and God's children, and the significance of trust in our own lives of faith. Each morning, we invite you to begin your day by reading the scripture passage for the week. (This means you will read the same scripture passage each morning for seven days.)

Week 1: Isaiah 9:1-7

Week 3: Isaiah 49:13-18

Week 2: Isaiah 11:1-9

Week 4: Luke 1:26-38

RESPOND

1. What image(s) or word(s) stood out to you?
2. How are you being reminded to trust God's faithfulness?
3. As you think about the day ahead, where do you think it will be easy to trust God, and where do you think it may be difficult?
4. How will you use the scripture passage you just read to grow in trust today?

LISTEN & GO

Take 1-3 minutes to be in silence and listen for God's still, small voice.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



MEALTIME: PRESENCE

PRAY

Dear God, Thank you for this new day, its beauty and its light. Thank you for my chance to begin again. Free me from the limitations of yesterday. May I become more fully a reflection of your radiance. Amen.

READ

Our theme for this Advent season is *The Child*. At mealtime, we invite you to focus on presence: being present in the moment, present in your body, present with God. As a way of slowing down and bringing awareness to this present moment, we invite you to select one of the hymns, songs or psalms below (or one of your own) to read through, sing, listen to or meditate on.

Psalm 25; Psalm 85:8-13; Psalm 130

Creator of the Stars of Night, 9th century

Sometimes A Light Surprises, William Cowper, 1779

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, pre-9th century

Welcome to Our World, Chris Rice, 1997

Better is One Day, Matt Redman, 2005

RESPOND

Take a few deep breaths and bring awareness to how your body feels. You are invited to name 5-7 things that you are thankful for, right now in this moment.

LISTEN & GO

May the God of peace be with you now and always. Let us pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

EVENING: WONDER

PRAY

*Stay with us Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over.
(Luke 24:29)*

READ

Our theme for this Advent season is *The Child*. Each evening we invite you to focus on wonder: the kind of wonder children are naturally filled with, the wonder we have for God's creation, and the wonder we experience as God reveals God's self to us. Each evening, we invite you to close your day with the scripture passage for the week. (This means you will read the same scripture passage each evening for seven days.)

Week 1: Luke 3:7-18

Week 3: John 1:1-12

Week 2: Psalm 8

Week 4: Luke 2:1-14

RESPOND

1. What are you curious about in this scripture passage?
2. What character or image stood out to you?
3. Think through your day. When were the times and where were the places that you were most aware of God's presence with you? What did that feel like?

LISTEN & GO

Take 1-3 minutes to be silent and wonder about God's movement and work in your life. Be curious and wonder about how you will respond.

May Almighty God bless, preserve and keep us, this night and forever more. Let us pray:

Dear God, Thank you for this day. As I enter sleep, may these hours give me peace. May they bring healing to my mind and body. Please prepare me, during these hours of rest, for greater service to You. May the light that surrounds me, tomorrow shine through me and soften my heart. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

The top half of the image features a dark blue night sky with a bright, multi-pointed star in the upper left corner. Below the sky, there are dark silhouettes of rolling hills. On the right side of the hills, two figures are visible: one standing and one riding a horse, likely representing the Three Kings. The overall scene is peaceful and evocative of the Christmas season.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS

SUNDAY MORNINGS IN ADVENT

8:15, 9:30 & 11 a.m. | Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. | Sunday School

11 a.m. | OnPoint@1704 in Pickard Hall

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN ADVENT

Fellowship Dinner* | 5-6:30 p.m. | Geneva Hall

Advent Evening Prayer | 6:30-7 p.m. | Davidson Chapel

ALSO JOIN US FOR

Mary's Song: Music for Advent (works by J.S. Bach)*

Sunday, December 9 | 3 p.m. | Sanctuary

Advent Communion Service*

Monday, December 10 | 11:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS EVE BELL SERVICES

3 & 4 p.m. | Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT LESSONS & CAROLS

6 & 11 p.m. | Sanctuary

6 p.m. | OnPoint@1704 in Pickard Hall

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OBSERVED

Sunday, December 30 | 8:15 & 10 a.m. | Sanctuary

* Visit whitememorial.org/register or call 919-834-3424
for dinner/childcare reservations.