

All Creation Waits



Advent at Ascension 2025

All Creation Waits

25 Days of Advent Devotions

*An Advent journey through Scripture and creation –
exploring how all the world waits for Christ's coming*

Advent is the holy season of waiting, a sacred pause between promise and fulfillment. This year's theme, "All Creation Waits," reminds us that the whole world shares in this longing. From the fiery furnace to the valley of dry bones, from the thirsty earth to the Word made flesh, Scripture invites us to see that God's redemption touches every corner of creation. This year's Advent logo reflects these elements – fire (right), air (top), water (left), and creation (bottom).

Each week's devotions are based on the preaching text for that Sunday. Each day's reflection includes a short passage, a meditation, a question, and a prayer starter. These daily readings are meant to draw us into deeper awareness of God's presence in the world around us and within us as we await the coming of Christ.

Come, Lord Jesus. All creation waits for You.

Unless noted, all readings are from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition (NRSVUe).



Day 1 - The Long Wait Begins **Sunday, November 30**

Romans 8:22-23

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Thoughts

Advent begins in longing. Not just human waiting, but all creation's ache for redemption. The trees, the soil, the sky – all of it yearns for God's glory to be revealed. Our waiting joins the world's waiting. Advent reminds us that hope is not passive; it's the deep breath before new life. We wait, not because God is absent, but because God's promise is so close, we can feel its nearness stirring in our bones.

Question

Where in your life, or in creation, do you sense that deep, holy longing for renewal?

Prayer

Lord, breathe hope into the dry places of my life. Help me trust Your power to restore what feels lost ...



Day 2 - Refusing to Bow

Monday, December 1

Daniel 3:18

¹⁸ “But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

Thoughts

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stand firm, not because they know the outcome, but because they trust God regardless of it. Advent faith is like that: choosing trust in the face of uncertainty. They don't demand rescue; they simply refuse to worship anything less than the living God.

Question

Where might God be inviting you to stand firm in faith, even when you can't see the outcome?

Prayer

Lord, give me courage to stand firm. Strengthen my faith in every uncertainty ...



Day 3 - The Fiery Furnace

Tuesday, December 2

Daniel 3:23

²³ But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

Thoughts

Faith doesn't always keep us out of the fire. Sometimes it leads us into it. Yet in the heat, something holy happens. The fire that destroys the ropes doesn't destroy them. The place of trial becomes the place of freedom. Advent reminds us that God's presence often meets us most clearly in the flames we fear.

Question

What part of your life feels like a "furnace" right now – and how might God be working within it?

Prayer

God, be present with me in the fires I face. Purify my heart and free me in Your love ...



Day 4 - The Fourth Figure

Wednesday, December 3

Daniel 3:25

²⁵ He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the fourth has the appearance of a god."

Thoughts

Nebuchadnezzar sees someone in the fire – one who looks divine. God is not far off, shouting comfort from the heavens. God enters the fire with us. In the Incarnation, this same mystery unfolds: the Creator walks amid the flames of our world, radiant with love.

Question

Where can you glimpse Christ's presence walking beside those in suffering or struggle?

Prayer

Jesus, walk with me today. Let me sense Your nearness in every moment ...



Day 5 - Bless the Lord, All You Works of the Lord Thursday, December 4

Daniel 3:57, 75-76, NRSV-Catholic Edition

⁵⁷ "Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

⁷⁵ Bless the Lord, mountains and hills;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

⁷⁶ Bless the Lord, all that grows in the ground;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

Thoughts

Out of the fire rises a hymn – creation's own song of praise. The "Song of the Three" invites every element of creation to bless God: sun and moon, frost and fire, beasts and birds. Even the furnace becomes part of the symphony. True praise isn't limited to comfort; it's born from faith in the middle of the flames.

Question

What part of creation helps you join its song of praise this week?

Prayer

Creator God, teach me to praise You in all circumstances.
Make my life a song of faith ...



Day 6 - Creation's Chorus

Friday, December 5

Daniel 3:77-81, NRSV-Catholic Edition

- ⁷⁷ Bless the Lord, seas and rivers;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- ⁷⁸ Bless the Lord, you springs;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- ⁷⁹ Bless the Lord,
you sea monsters and all that swim in the waters;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- ⁸⁰ Bless the Lord, all birds of the air;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- ⁸¹ Bless the Lord, all wild animals and cattle;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

Thoughts

Every voice in creation has its note in God's great song. Advent invites us to listen: the rustle of leaves, the rhythm of rain, the silence of stars. When we wait with faith, we begin to hear how the world itself worships. The universe buzzes with expectation for its Redeemer.

Question

How might you pause and listen for creation's quiet worship around you today?

Prayer

Lord, open my ears to creation's praise. Help me join the chorus of all You have made ...



Day 7 - Fire That Frees

Saturday, December 6

Daniel 3:27

²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not scorched, and not even the smell of fire came from them.

Thoughts

The only thing the fire consumes is their bondage. God's refining presence purifies without destroying. Advent hope doesn't deny hardship – it trusts that God can transform it. What binds us may be burned away so that what's true and holy can stand free.

Question

What might God be burning away in you this Advent – and what new freedom might that bring?

Prayer

God, refine me gently. Burn away what binds me and lead me into freedom ...



Day 8 - The Hand of the Lord Was Upon Me

Sunday, December 7

Ezekiel 37:1a

^{1a} The hand of the Lord came upon me.

Thoughts

The valley of dry bones begins not with desolation, but with God's hand. Before Ezekiel sees anything troubling, he is held, guided, and positioned by God. Advent hope starts the same way: with the quiet assurance that God is already at work, already near, already leading us into places where resurrection is waiting to happen. We do not walk into the valley alone — God's hand is on us first.

Question

Where have you recently sensed God's quiet guidance in your life?

Prayer

God, place Your hand upon me today. Guide me where Your hope is already at work ...



Day 9 - He Set Me Down in the Middle of a Valley Monday, December 8

Ezekiel 37:1b-2

^{1b} And he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

Thoughts

Ezekiel is placed in the middle of the valley — not on the edge, not at a safe distance. God invites him to see the bones up close. Hope grows when we face reality honestly: the broken places, the dry places, the places we'd rather avoid. Advent doesn't ask us to pretend the world is whole; it asks us to trust God in the very places that feel lifeless. Only what is seen can be restored.

Question

What valley or "dry place" is God asking you to face with honesty and hope?

Prayer

Lord, give me courage to face the dry places. Meet me there with Your restoring presence ...



Day 10 - Can These Bones Live?

Tuesday, December 9

Ezekiel 37:3

³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know."

Thoughts

God's question to Ezekiel is also the question of Advent. Can life come from what looks dead? Can hope be born from what feels lost? Ezekiel doesn't try to answer – he leaves it to God. Faith doesn't deny despair; it looks it in the eye and says, "You know, Lord." Waiting in hope means trusting that even in silence, God is at work.

Question

What is one place in your life where you can echo Ezekiel's humble trust: "Lord, you know"?

Prayer

Spirit of God, speak life over my weary bones. Renew my strength as I wait for You ...



Day 11 - The Word to the Bones

Wednesday, December 10

Ezekiel 37:4

⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord."

Thoughts

Ezekiel speaks God's Word to that which cannot hear, and yet, the bones begin to rattle. Creation itself listens when God's Word is spoken. Advent reminds us that God's Word still calls life out of silence, still speaks into emptiness. Our calling is to keep proclaiming that Word, even when it seems impossible, because God's speech has power to call forth that which we cannot yet see.

Question

Where might God be inviting you to speak life, even when it seems no one is listening?

Prayer

Lord, open my ears to Your Word. Let Your breath fill me with new hope today ...



Day 12 - The Breath Comes

Thursday, December 11

Ezekiel 37:9-10a

⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ^{10a} I prophesied as he commanded me.

Thoughts

The Spirit (the same Hebrew word as "breath" and "wind") moves across the valley and fills the bodies with life. This is creation all over again – Genesis 2 revisited in exile. God's Spirit always moves toward what is lifeless. It always breathes new beginnings. Advent breathes through us, too – when we pray, when we hope, when we refuse to give up.

Question

Where do you sense God's breath stirring new life around you or within you?

Prayer

God of resurrection, lift my eyes toward Your future. Revive what has grown dim within me ...



Day 13 - They Stood on Their Feet **Friday, December 12**

Ezekiel 37:10b

^{10b} The breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Thoughts

The miracle is complete, not just through one life revived, but through a whole community restored. God's renewal is never for one person alone. When God raises us, it's so we can stand together. Advent hope is communal hope. Even when faith feels small, it joins a great multitude of the living.

Question

Who stands beside you in hope this Advent? How can you help someone else rise?

Prayer

Spirit, gather the scattered parts of my heart. Make me whole in Your hope ...



Day 14 - I Will Open Your Graves **Saturday, December 13**

Ezekiel 37:12

¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel."

Thoughts

God promises resurrection – not metaphorical, not theoretical, but real. The same God who breathes life into bones will one day make all things new. Advent ends the week where it began: waiting for resurrection. The valley will bloom again; the earth itself will exhale joy.

Question

What "graves" – old wounds, fears, or endings – do you need to place in God's hands to be opened to new life?

Prayer

Lord, plant Your hope in me again. Help me trust that You are making all things new ...



Day 15 - Come, All Who Are Thirsty Sunday, December 14

Isaiah 55:1

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts;
 come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.

Thoughts

Advent joy begins with an invitation. God doesn't wait for us to get it all together – the call goes out to the thirsty, the weary, the poor. “Come.” The Living Water welcomes us freely. Joy isn't something we earn; it's something we receive. God's table overflows, and our thirst points us toward the Source of all joy.

Question

What kind of “thirst” – for peace, meaning, or belonging – draws you closer to God this Advent?

Prayer

Lord, draw me to Your living water. Fill me with joy that overflows ...

Week 3 – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Waiting in Joy (Isaiah 55)



Day 16 - Why Spend on What Does Not Satisfy? Monday, December 15

Isaiah 55:2

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Thoughts

God asks a piercing question: why chase what cannot fill you? In a season of endless busyness and shopping, Advent asks us to stop and remember what nourishes the soul. The bread of this world leaves us hungry again. Only God's Word, God's love, truly satisfies. Joy grows when we stop feeding on noise and start feasting on grace.

Question

What might you need to set aside this week to make room for what truly satisfies?

Prayer

God, free me from what does not satisfy. Teach my heart to delight in You ...



Day 17 - My Word

Will Not Return Empty

Tuesday, December 16

Isaiah 55:11

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Thoughts

God's Word creates what it speaks. In the beginning, light appeared; in the wilderness, water flowed; in Mary's womb, the Word became flesh. Every promise God makes is already pulsing with life. Advent joy rests in that certainty – God's Word never fails. Even when we can't see the fruit, the seed is already growing.

Question

Where do you need to trust that God's Word is quietly at work, even if you can't yet see the results?

Prayer

Lord, let Your Word take root in me. Grow joy where I cannot yet see fruit ...



Day 18 - You Will Go Out in Joy

Wednesday, December 17

Isaiah 55:12a

^{12a} For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;

Thoughts

This is the promise: joy that moves us forward, peace that leads us out. God's renewal doesn't keep us stuck in waiting – it sends us rejoicing into the world. The joy of Advent is active, not sentimental. It propels us to love, to serve, to sing. Joy is the strength that carries hope into the open air.

Question

What would it look like for you to “go out in joy” this week – in your words, your actions, or your presence?

Prayer

God of joy, send me out with gladness. Let Your peace shape my steps today ...



Day 19 - Mountains and Hills Will Burst into Song

Thursday, December 18

Isaiah 55:12b

^{12b} the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Thoughts

All creation celebrates God's salvation. The joy of redemption is not confined to human hearts – it echoes through forests and skies. Imagine mountains singing, trees clapping, rivers dancing. Advent joy is cosmic; it includes the whole earth. When Christ comes, creation itself joins the chorus.

Question

Where do you glimpse creation's joy? How might you join in?

Prayer

Creator, awaken my joy with creation's song. Let my heart echo its praise ...



Day 20 - Instead of Thorns, Cypress Shall Grow Friday, December 19

Isaiah 55:13a

^{13a} Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,

Thoughts

God's redemption doesn't just heal – it transforms. Where there was pain, beauty springs up. Where there was curse, blessings bloom. Advent joy looks at the world's brokenness and believes in God's power to plant something new there. This promise is the story of creation's renewal and ours.

Question

What "thorny" place in your life might God be transforming into something fruitful?

Prayer

Lord, transform the thorny places in me. Make beauty grow where pain once lived ...



Day 21 - An Everlasting Sign

Saturday, December 20

Isaiah 55:13b

^{13b} and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Thoughts

Every act of restoration points to God's glory. Joy that endures doesn't come from fleeting happiness, but from knowing that God's story lasts forever. Advent prepares us for joy that no season can end – a joy rooted in the eternal love of Christ. The flowers fade, the songs quiet, but the Word endures.

Question

How can you carry this lasting joy into the final week of Advent?

Prayer

God, make Your joy steady within me. Help me carry Your hope into the days ahead ...



Day 22 -

In the Beginning Was the Word Sunday, December 21

John 1:1

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Thoughts

Before there was light, before there was sound, there was the Word, the divine heartbeat of all creation. Everything that exists began in that holy speech. Advent love begins not in sentiment, but in eternity. The One who spoke galaxies into being is the same One who will soon speak through a child's cry.

Question

How does it change your sense of God's love to know that it existed before anything else?

Prayer

Eternal Word, root me in Your love — a love older than all things ...



Day 23 -

All Things Came Into Being Monday, December 22

John 1:3-4

³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being
⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Thoughts

Nothing is outside the reach of Christ's creative love. The same hands that formed stars will soon touch straw. The One who breathed life into humanity will soon breathe among us. In Advent we remember: the Creator doesn't abandon creation – He enters it. Love descends to restore every fragment of what God made.

Question

What part of creation – or your own life – needs to be reminded that it was made through Christ and for Christ?

Prayer

Creator Christ, make me mindful of Your love in all You have made. Restore what is broken within me ...



Day 24 -

The Light Shines in the Darkness Tuesday, December 23

John 1:5

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

Thoughts

Every Advent candle reminds us: light wins. The darkness may seem deep, but it is never final. God's light does not avoid the shadows; it enters them, illuminating from within. The world's gloom cannot extinguish what God has kindled. On the eve of Christ's birth, we wait with the steady flame of love that no night can overcome.

Question

Where do you need to remember that God's light still shines and cannot be overcome?

Prayer

Light of the world, shine into my darkness. Let Your love overcome every shadow ...



Day 25 - The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us

Wednesday, December 24

John 1:14

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Thoughts

This is the heartbeat of all creation's waiting: the Word became flesh. Heaven stooped to earth, and eternity entered time. The Creator wore creation. In the manger, God is not distant – He is here. All the valleys, fires, rivers, and stars we've pondered these weeks now bow before Love incarnate. The waiting ends, and the world begins again.

Question

What does it mean for you today, in your real, lived world, that God is with us?

Prayer

Emmanuel, dwell with me today. Fill my heart with Your love made flesh ...



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