

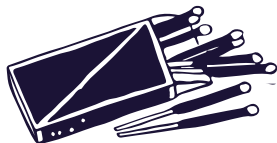


an  
advent  
journey



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## I INTRO

For hundreds of years it was *quiet*. Silence that I'm sure was deafening for those that longed to hear God's voice, and to others the silence may have seemed like permission to think and do whatever they wanted to think and do. Either way, the tension of this silence was getting tighter and the longing and aching of the human heart was becoming louder. Soon, but not soon enough, the Word, God, would become skin, muscle and bone and live amongst us, showing us the glory of the Father and his deep love for the human heart. God, the symphony, full of complexity, movement, beauty and power, and infinite in His being, would become a song that we could all hear and see and sing, a folk song, intimate, close, and our hearts would burn inside us. But those before us would have to stand in an unbearable tension.

As the human heart cried out for light to break into the dark the fullness of time had come, and God sent His son, born from a woman to buy back the human heart from its varying slaveries, so that we could be named by God alone as sons and daughters adopted and chosen in Christ. God stepped out of heaven and became a vulnerable breakable baby to push back the darkness of the world and call us out of the darkness into an unfathomable light.

This gospel must be recalled over and over. We have short memories and are easily distracted with shine and glitter. So we must spend weekly, monthly and yearly rhythms reminding ourselves and each others of the gospel of Jesus, the power to save. We do this in moments by spending individual time with God, becoming vulnerable to the voice and presence of God in the scriptures. We do this weekly when we gather with the people of God and proclaim again the benefits of feasting on God and forsaking the world's malnutrition. We also do this "gospel recalling" through the Church Calendar. The most simple way to explain this calendar is to see it as a yearly cycle. Advent is the season we recall longing for a Savior. Christmas is the celebration of the arrival of that Savior. Lent is the journey to the cross and death of that Savior. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Pentecost is the moment the Holy Spirit comes and Jesus builds His church in daily massive conversion. The church calendar is one more way to help our scattered minds remember, recall, and renew our love for Gods massive rescue plan.

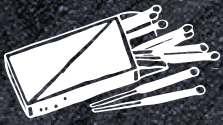
So here we stand in this Advent season, longing for a Savior we know will come. It's not too difficult for many of us to already sense that longing even though the work of Jesus is complete. We stand in a new tension between the rebel feast and the wedding feast. Jesus' work is done, but the Kingdom of God has not yet fully come. This season I want to invite anyone and everyone to journey with us through four weeks of Advent. Step inside the quiet, the longing, the expectation and finally the great fulfillment. It's a little like holding your breath for a long time, waiting to exhale. If you are a human who is quite as broken as I, it becomes such a fresh and marvelous way to approach Christmas. The wide-eyed, jaw dropping, heart pumping miracle of God coming to us in our tattered state and giving our souls worth makes Christmas a new and unique celebration like no other!

I pray each of us find the depth of meaning in each beautiful or painful moment in this Christmas season. Be present in the journey friends!

*Charlie Hall*  
*Frontline Worship and Liturgy Pastor*



preparation



## I BIBLE READING

### Preparation

Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:

#### OT: Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

And cry to her  
That her warfare is ended,  
That her iniquity is pardoned,  
That she has received from the Lord's hand  
Double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
And every mountain and hill be made low;  
The uneven ground shall become level,  
And the rough places a plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
And all flesh shall see it together,  
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All flesh is grass,  
And all its beauty is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades  
When the breath of the Lord blows on it;  
Surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
But the word of our God will stand forever.

# I BIBLE READING

## Preparation

**NT: Luke 1:5-17, 67-80**

*In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,*

*that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;  
to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to  
grant us*

*that we, being delivered from the hand of  
our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
in holiness and righteousness before him all  
our days.*

*And you, child, will be called the prophet of the  
Most High;*

*for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the  
shadow of death,*

*to guide our feet into the way of peace."*  
*And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and  
he was in the wilderness until the day of his public  
appearance to Israel.*

*Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:*

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I DEVOTIONAL  
Preparation

When my youngest daughter was three, I was holding her hand and we were walking from the house to the car over an ice patch. She slipped and her legs flew up in the air and her whole body went stiff for a moment. I held her hand all the tighter knowing exactly where we had come from and where we were going. I pulled her air suspended body to a dry patch and landed her safely. Humanity is free-falling, broken and longing, who can make things right? Who’s coming for me? Suspended, with breath held, waiting for a Savior. The description of our condition is in Isaiah 9, saying that we’re a people walking in the dark, a land of deep darkness, oppressed and burdened. We know we need something that is beyond what we can do for ourselves and we look for it everywhere. The world and religion try to answer, but leave us longing for a light in this darkness.

We have an amazing vantage point at this time in history to see where we are in the story of God. Though we still sense being stretched “in-between”, He knows exactly where we came from and right where we are going. He walked His people from slavery through a split sea onto dry land and He gave us Jesus to get to God. We’ve tried it on our own, but we come up thirsty and hungry. Jesus shed heaven to enter the world that He made, and He came as a breakable, vulnerable, child. Not only has He come for us, but He gave Himself for us and He’s coming again to wipe our tears, take death away, and make all things new. C.S. Lewis says, “He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world with Him.” Make way for the glad tidings in Jesus; we can’t save ourselves, but Jesus came for us.

We are still “in-between”. Jesus has come and yet we are still waiting for the final restoration, grateful but longing. The Advent season is to prepare with angsty-longing for the good news in Jesus, make

straight paths for these glad tidings, bring low the things that stand in the way and fill in the places that are waiting for life to move. Advent is to make the crooked paths around us straight and to usher in Jesus, God with us, to this season, our lives, our families, and our neighbors. This Advent, prepare for the kingdom of God to move in the world around us! Anticipate, expect, and move toward His work to stand in places that are in deep darkness. God can do anything at any time. Like the twinkle of Christmas lights against a black sky, the kingdom of God is pressing into our world through us because of Jesus.

My friends, the Christmas blessing is  
Jesus. Prepare the way for these

*glad tidings.*

Charlie Hall  
Frontline Worship & Liturgy Pastor

Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:

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# I DAILY READINGS

## Preparation

### Day 1: Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent,  
"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock

and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

### Day 2: 2 Samuel 7:10-16

And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

### Day 3: Psalm 110

The Lord says to my Lord:  
"Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies your footstool."  
The Lord sends forth from Zion  
your mighty scepter.  
Rule in the midst of your enemies!  
Your people will offer themselves freely  
on the day of your power,  
in holy garments;  
from the womb of the morning,

the dew of your youth will be yours.  
The Lord has sworn  
and will not change his mind,  
“You are a priest forever  
after the order of Melchizedek.”  
The Lord is at your right hand;  
he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.  
He will execute judgment among the nations,  
filling them with corpses;  
he will shatter chiefs  
over the wide earth.  
He will drink from the brook by the way;  
therefore he will lift up his head.

### ***Day 4: Malachi 3:1-4***

*Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiners fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.*

### Day 5: Malachi 4:1-6

*“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts*

*“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the*

*statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.*

*“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.*

*Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:*

[illegible]

## Preparation

## I MEDITATION / MUSING

## Preparation



## I HYMNS

### *Preparation*

*O Come Emmanuel (Emmanuel)  
O come O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear*

*Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel*

*O come Desire of nations bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease  
And be Thyself our King of peace*

*Emmanuel  
Wonderful, Counselor  
Lord of life, Lord of all  
Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Holy One,  
Emmanuel*

*You have come for us  
You have come for us  
You have come for us  
Emmanuel*

*You are God with us  
You are God with us  
You are God with us  
Emmanuel*

## O COME, O COME *Emmanuel*

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The bones of this hymn have come down to us from as far back as 1,000 years. It's place in our Advent season is similar to that of when it was written by 8th and 9th century monks; we sing it in expectation and anticipation of a Rescuer come to save His people from their slavery and ultimately from death. Coupled with Emmanuel, a more contemporary tune, we can inhabit the tension between yearning for Emmanuel to come and beholding the Wonderful Counselor, Lord of Light Himself. Thus we enter Advent, yearning and beholding.

## I HYMNS

### Preparation

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.*

*Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*Come Thou long expected Jesus  
Come Thou long expected Jesus*

*Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.*

*Come Thou long expected Jesus  
(Break forth!)*

*Come Thou long expected Jesus  
(Break forth!)*  
*And as we behold and as we yearn, we begin to  
look outside ourselves and see not only our need  
for a redeemer, but this whole world's desperate  
need. This hymn was written in the midst of a  
broken city and at it's most broken moments. We  
yearn in this season for our own hearts, but also  
as a piece of the whole creation crying out for  
the "desire of every nation" to come and take His  
rightful Kingship.*

*Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light-  
Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,  
And usher in the morning;  
O shepherds, shrink not with affright,  
But hear the angel's warning.  
This Child, now weak in infancy,  
Our confidence and joy shall be;  
The power of Satan breaking,*

*Our peace eternal making.*

*Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,  
God comes to us as helpless child*

*Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,  
God comes to us as helpless child*

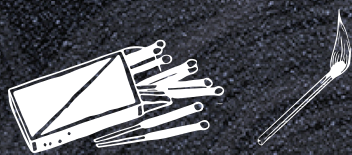
## COME THOU LONG *expected Jesus*

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Advent is a journey through stages of anticipating, beholding, and responding. Break Forth marries the hope of waiting and the joy of celebrating; our King has come! What is this King like? What can this mean for us? Who are we now? And as we behold and as we yearn, we begin to look outside ourselves and see not only our need for a redeemer, but this whole world's desperate need. This hymn was written in the midst of a broken city and at it's most broken moments. We yearn in this season for our own hearts, but also as a piece of the whole creation crying out for the "desire of every nation" to come and take His rightful Kingship.



annunciation



## I BIBLE READING

### Annunciation

Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:

#### OT: Isaiah 11:1-10

*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

*And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*

*Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*

*The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.*

*The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

*The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.*

*They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

*In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.*

# I BIBLE READING

## Annunciation

Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:

**NT: Luke 1:26 - 38**

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

## I DEVOTIONAL

### *Annunciation*

Into the darkness, into the silence  
A holy announcement  
Piercing the emptiness and longing  
And filling it with life

God's people had waited for centuries for a King to come, the one prophesied by Isaiah. There would be no one quite like Him. He would rule with wisdom, might, righteousness, and justice. He wouldn't seek after power, but equity. Because of this King, the earth would be filled with peace and the knowledge of the Lord. He would restore what was broken in the beginning. But for the Jews, it seemed as if God had abandoned His people. The world was lost in darkness and sin. The only "king" they had was the one the Roman Emperor had appointed for them. Power, oppression, and injustice ruled the day. All they saw was a world far from God, far from peace, far from hope.

Then when all seemed lost, good news came breaking onto the scene. This declaration, this royal proclamation became the turning point of all human history. An angel appeared to a young woman named Mary and shared the good news. The time had come. God had not forgotten them. The King they had been waiting for would soon be here. And this King, the one who would rule over all things, would call her "mother." If that wasn't enough, this announcement included something she didn't expect. This King would be the Son of God, God Himself in the flesh. But how could this be? How could the uncreated Creator become a man? Heaven and earth could not contain God, and yet God would come to dwell in Mary's womb. As the poet Levertov writes,

to bear in her womb  
Infinite weight and lightness; to carry  
in hidden, finite inwardness,  
nine months of Eternity; to contain

in slender vase of being,  
the sum of power  
in narrow flesh,  
the sum of light.

This announcement brings hope, joy, life, and light into the world, because it greets us with who Jesus is. And just like Mary, this proclamation has come to us: Jesus is the king, the Son of God, and of His kingdom there will be no end. And just as Mary received Jesus into her womb, we receive Jesus into our very lives. Heaven and earth could not contain God, and yet God comes to dwell inside every believer, giving birth to life and deliverance. What do we do with such good news?

**This message is meant to be**  
*proclaimed.*

There are people all throughout our city who are longing, waiting for good news. They are waiting for the turning point in their story, for their lives to turn from tragedy to hope. Whether they realize it or not, they need the Son of God to step into the mess of their lives. They need to hear the announcement that Jesus has come.

Where do you need Jesus to step into the mess of your life? What is the "good news" that you are looking for?

*Aaron Addison*  
*Frontline Pastor*

*Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:*

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# I DAILY READINGS

## Annunciation

### Day 1: Daniel 7:13-14

*"I saw in the night visions,  
and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man,  
and he came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before him.  
And to him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him;  
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and his kingdom one  
that shall not be destroyed.*

### Day 2: Psalm 2

*Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?  
The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,  
"Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us."  
He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.  
Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,  
"As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill."  
I will tell of the decree:  
The Lord said to me, "You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.  
Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.  
You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."  
Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.*

*Serve the Lord with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.  
Kiss the Son,  
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

### Day 3: Psalm 24

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,  
for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.  
Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.  
He will receive blessing from the Lord  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.  
Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah  
Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle!  
Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory! Selah*

### Day 4: Jeremiah 23:5-6

*"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,  
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,  
and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and  
shall execute justice and righteousness in the  
land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel  
will dwell securely. And this is the name by which  
he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'*

## Day 5: Psalm 72

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the royal son!  
May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice!  
Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness!  
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor!  
May they fear you while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!  
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth!  
In his days may the righteous flourish,  
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!  
May he have dominion from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth!  
May desert tribes bow down before him,  
and his enemies lick the dust!  
May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands  
render him tribute;  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba  
bring gifts!  
May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations serve him!  
For he delivers the needy when he calls,  
the poor and him who has no helper.  
He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.  
From oppression and violence he redeems their  
life,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.  
Long may he live;  
may gold of Sheba be given to him!  
May prayer be made for him continually,  
and blessings invoked for him all the day!  
May there be abundance of grain in the land;  
on the tops of the mountains may it wave;  
may its fruit be like Lebanon;  
and may people blossom in the cities  
like the grass of the field!

*May his name endure forever,  
his fame continue as long as the sun!  
May people be blessed in him,  
all nations call him blessed!  
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.  
Blessed be his glorious name forever;  
may the whole earth be filled with his glory!  
Amen and Amen!  
The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.*

*Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:*

## *Annunciation*

## I MEDITATION / MUSING

## *Annunciation*



## I HYMNS

### *Annunciation*

*God can do the impossible  
Jesus came as a baby  
God with us forever more  
A Savior came to save me*

*God can do the impossible  
Bringing heaven to earth  
Sent His only begotten Son  
Because He loves the whole world*

*Emmanuel (God with us)  
God with us (Emmanuel)  
Emmanuel (God with us)  
God with us (Emmanuel)*

*God can do the impossible  
Bringing heaven to earth  
Sent His only begotten Son  
Because He loves the whole world*

*Lift up your hands to the King  
Lift up your hearts to the King of everything  
Let all the Christmas bells ring  
This is why we sing*

*God*  
WITH US

---

Throughout the history of Advent the Church has had the distinct pleasure of announcing the King with her worship of Him. This God has done the impossible: He has made himself like His creation because we could not be as He is, not only this, but He is making us like Him in His coming. What we believe can become smooth with the wear of years, but stop for a moment. What we believe and celebrate at Advent is absolutely unthinkable and should have been impossible. And yet, it is true.

## I HYMNS

### *Annunciation*

*Away in a manger  
No crib for His bed  
The little Lord Jesus  
Lay down His sweet head*

*The stars in the bright sky  
Look down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus  
Asleep on the hay*

*The cattle are lowing  
The Baby wakes  
But little Lord Jesus  
No crying He makes*

*I love Thee, Lord Jesus  
Look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle  
'Til morning is nigh*

*I love Thee,  
I love Thee my Jesus  
I love Thee,  
I love thee my God*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus  
I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever  
And love me, I pray*

*Bless all the dear children  
In Thy tender care  
And fit us for Heaven  
To live with Thee there*

# BE NEAR ME, *Lord Jesus*

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And now we come to this King and the way that he came to us. In cavalcade? In shining armor? Was the Son of David to be like David? Yes and more. He comes to us humble. A baby. He enters as our rescuer in the upside-down way of the Kingdom, not with horses and lances, but silently. Like snow falling and like baby's breath, in a whisper under a star, unto us a child is born.

## I HYMNS

### *Annunciation*

*O come all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of Angels;*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

*Highest, most Holy  
Light of Light Eternal  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given  
Word of the Father;  
Now in flesh appearing*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

*O Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens in heaven above  
Glory to God glory in the Highest;*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

*Hail! Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
O Jesus! to Thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

*We'll give You all the glory  
We'll praise Your name forever*

O COME, LET US  
*adore Him*

---

And who might we be in this picture that's being painted before us? Indeed, we are the shepherds—on the outside, dirty and unclean, but visited by an angel with the promise good will from God toward us. And we too are the wisemen, walking towards this King in faith with all in our possession ready to be laid at His feet. The word and promise of the Father is now in flesh appearing.





magnification



## I BIBLE READING

### Magnification

Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:

**OT: Isaiah 61:1-4, 10-11**

*OT: Isaiah 61:1-4, 10-11*

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who  
are bound;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead  
of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, that he may be  
glorified.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.*

*I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a  
beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to  
sprout up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.*

## I BIBLE READING

### Magnification

Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:

**NT: Luke 1:39 - 56**

*In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."*

*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.*

*For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;*

*for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.*

*And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.*

*He has shown strength with his arm;*

*he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;*

*he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate:*

*he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.*

*He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,*

*as he spoke to our fathers,*

*to Abraham and to his offspring forever."*

*And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.*

## I DEVOTIONAL

### *Magnification*

A song is the sound of a heart overflowing. Freedom fighters sing anthems after toppling a tyrant. The love of enamored newlyweds spill out in ballads. The voices of the brokenhearted resound of loss, grief and regret. Mothers serenade their babies with sweet lullabies.

The season of Advent is saturated with incredible Christmas songs. We sing of our need for a savior in Come Thou Long Expected Jesus. Jesus' glory and goodness are front and center as the church calls the world to worship in O Come Let Us Adore Him! Joy to the World commands all of heaven and earth to receive the King of our hearts. The Church is blessed with countless gospel-centered Christmas songs this season, yet in a real way each one of them is an echo of the first Christmas song. Here in the opening chapter of Luke we hear that first Christmas song in history. For hundreds of years it has been known as Mary's Magnificat, and it is an explosion of joy that rings out of the heart of the mother of the Christ.

Unfortunately, this moment between Mary & Elizabeth is a rather neglected part of the Christmas story. In reality, it is one of the most significant moments in all of scripture. The moment when expectation and arrival collide.

Imagine the scene if you will. On one side stands Elizabeth, an old woman who has been barren all her life. On the other side stands Mary, a young virgin. It is an impossibility for either to be pregnant. But as the angel said, "nothing will be impossible with God." They both stand as a testament that God can do anything. The babies they carry stand as a testament that God will do the amazing. For hundreds of years, prophets had been declaring the coming of a promised Savior. In Elizabeth grows John the Baptist, the last Prophet who will introduce the world to the promised Savior of the

world. In Mary grows that Savior, the first born from among the dead. Jesus who will live, die, and rise again to bring those who believe to new life with Him.

God is on the move to save the world, and these two women are in on the secret. A gift has arrived. The poor will receive a priceless treasure. The broken will be bound up. The captive will be freed. The mourning will be comforted. The down and dirty will be raised up and made beautiful. The devastated will be put back together. The Light is beginning to shine in the darkness. God has come to earth, and hell is in trouble.

In the light of this truth, Mary's heart is overwhelmed in wonder and she sings of the greatness of God. May we all sing like she did this Advent.

**Sing because our hearts are overflowing with the wonder of Jesus. Sing because the good news is true. Sing because we have a Savior. He has come. He has saved. He has won. He reigns.**

*Let your heart overflow.*

Question: Examine your heart this week. Are you, like Mary and Elizabeth, standing in awe and wonder of the great gift of grace we have in Christ Jesus? Pray the Holy Spirit helps center your thoughts and affections on the gift of Jesus Christ.

*David Adair*  
*Frontline Church Edmond Lead Pastor*

*Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:*

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## I DAILY READINGS

### Magnification

#### Day 1: Zephaniah 3:14-20

*Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.  
The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.  
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.  
Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the Lord.*

#### Day 2: Isaiah 52:7-10

*How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of  
happiness, who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”*

*The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.*

#### Day 3: Isaiah 35

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the  
crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.”  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.*

*It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

#### **Day 4: Psalm 98**

*Oh sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.  
The Lord has made known his salvation;  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of  
the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faith-  
fulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!  
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody!  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!  
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who dwell in it!  
Let the rivers clap their hands;  
let the hills sing for joy together  
before the Lord, for he comes  
to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.*

#### **Day 5: Psalm 146**

*Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my  
being.  
Put not your trust in princes,  
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.  
When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;  
on that very day his plans perish.  
Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.  
The Lord watches over the sojourners;  
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, to all generations.  
Praise the Lord!*

*Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:*

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## I APPLICATION

### *Magnification*

Each week of Advent we want to invite you, your friends and family to move outside of yourselves and serve the world around you. **This week we want to invite you to pursue opportunities to serve the poor and come against injustices in your city.** Consider doing this as a community group or a group of friends. There are a variety of ways you can step toward this around you, but we offer two specific ways. First, there are many opportunities through the 405 Center. Check their website for connection. Second, consider giving to the Compassion Offering. This is a yearly offering that serves the poor and works against injustices in Oklahoma City and beyond throughout the year. Check out this website to connect.

**405  
CENTER**

• TOGETHER FOR THE CITY •

[405center.org](http://405center.org)

GLOBAL  
*Compassion*

OFFERING

[FrontlineChurch.com/Give](http://FrontlineChurch.com/Give)

## I MEDITATION / MUSING

### *Annunciation*

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## I HYMNS

### Magnification

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
Opening to the sun above.*

*Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!*

*All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.*

*Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.*

*Joyful joyful! We adore Thee!  
Joyful joyful! We adore Thee!*

*joyful, joyful*

WE ADORE THEE

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Magnification is the only response when we look on Jesus. When we sing this hymn, whether in our car, around the dinner table at Christmas time, or standing next to our brothers and sisters on a Sunday morning, we are joining our voices together to sing a song that is ancient and beautiful. It has been sung since the dawn of creation, when the Creator first breathed life into the world; sung by the mountains, forests, and meadows. It is a carol sung by every bird, blooming flower, and rustling leaf. All of creation lifts its voice to sing the praise of the One that made them! “The mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.” (Isaiah 55:12)

## I HYMNS

### *Annunciation*

*Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria in excelsis Deo*

*Shepherds why this jubilee  
Why your joyous strains prolong  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song*

*Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord the newborn King*

# *Gloria*

## IN EXCELSIS DEO

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“Glory to God in the Highest.” Here too, we find a rich heritage of praise. This common Latin phrase has been in use by the Church since her inception, even to the humble shepherds it was heralded. As the angels proclaimed the splendor and wonder of a Messiah come to earth to rescue mankind and to establish peace between God and man, so, too, the creation itself is reverberating with the good news: “And the mountains in the reply, echoing their joyous strains!” What is happening here? Something more than the physical birth of a child, something mysterious and indescribable...

## I HYMNS

### *Magnification*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns  
Let men his songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy*

*No more let sin, nor sorrow grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as, the curse is found*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love*

## REPEAT THE SOUNDING

*Joy*

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While our words may fall short to describe and understand the puzzle of God becoming man, we can see, inhabit, and proclaim the benefits of His Advent. “No more let sin and sorrow grow, Nor thorns infest the ground: He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found.” He has come to reign, He has come to wipe every tear away, He has come to set things as they are supposed to be.





incarnation



## I BIBLE READING

### Incarnation

Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:

#### OT: Isaiah 9:1-7

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

*For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle  
tumult*

*and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.*

*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.*

*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.*

## BIBLE READING

### *Incarnation*

**NT: Luke 2:1 - 21**

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

*And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

*"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he  
is pleased!"*

*When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds*

*told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

**Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:**

## I DEVOTIONAL

### *Incarnation*

Isaiah 9:6

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... and his name shall be called... Mighty God.”

Luke 2:10-11

“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

The news of God sending His Son to join us and be born among us is the breathtaking celebration of Christmas. Throughout church history, the word we’ve used to talk about this great truth is the word “incarnation.” It’s a word that literally means in-fleshing. In the incarnation, God the Son was born among us and joined us in everything it means to be human, “putting on flesh and blood”, without ceasing to be God. The incarnation is proof that God is committed to being close to His people.

By joining us in Jesus, God has closed the gap. This is the wonder and wildness of Christmas. He is not a distant God, He is Emmanuel... God with us. It would have been enough for God to have announced His love for us from on high, yet He came to ground zero to make Himself known to us as one of us.

As a father of four kids under six years old, it is very easy for me to come home in the evening after a long day at work and just want to sit in my chair. The kids are there running and playing all around me. I am in their midst and they are with me. There from my chair I can talk with them and they with me, I can even tell them I love them in ways that will be meaningful to them. However, I’ll tell you there is a massive difference on their face and in their voice when I make the move to stand up from my chair and get down on the floor with them. Their countenance lifts and their smiles broaden when I start building a block tower with

them, or when I join them in the doll house. There is a big difference in the way that my kids hear me and feel my love for them when all of the sudden I close the gap from the chair to the floor. There’s a shift that takes place in the room when daddy lays down his rights to fathering from the chair, and willingly joins his kids on the floor.

This is exactly what God has done for us in Jesus. He has joined us on the floor to draw us to His side.

In the incarnation, God unflinchingly joins us in our pains, sorrows, sin, and brokenness. The incarnation is God’s great declaration that He isn’t ashamed of us (Hebrews 2:11), and nothing will stop Him from coming near to us... nothing.

**This Advent season rejoice that God has  
come near to us in**

*Jesus.*

God sees you, knows you, hasn’t forgotten you, and receives you in Jesus. For unto us a child has been born and a Son has been given... a Savior, Christ the Lord.

Take a moment to praise God for His faithfulness to keep His promise to come for His people. Give thanks to God for seeing our sin and committing to remove it even at great cost to Himself. Finally, pray for your soul to rest in Jesus whose perfect life, death for sin and resurrection make it so that we never have to fear being far from God ever again .

Chad Kincer  
Frontline Church Pastor

*Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:*

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# I DAILY READINGS

## Incarnation

### Day 1: Isaiah 42:1-4

*Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
He will not grow faint or be discouraged  
till he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his law.*

### Day 2: Isaiah 2:1-5

*The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concern-  
ing Judah and Jerusalem.  
It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the Lord  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and all the nations shall flow to it,  
and many peoples shall come, and say:  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;  
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.  
O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord.*

### Day 3: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

*“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet  
like me from among you, from your brothers—it  
is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of  
the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the as-  
sembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the  
voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any  
more, lest I die.’ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are  
right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for  
them a prophet like you from among their broth-  
ers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he  
shall speak to them all that I command him. And  
whoever will not listen to my words that he shall  
speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.*

### Day 4: Micah 5:2-5

*But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Ju-  
dah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the  
strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be  
great  
to the ends of the earth.  
And he shall be their peace.  
When the Assyrian comes into our land  
and treads in our palaces,  
then we will raise against him seven shepherds  
and eight princes of men;*

### ***Day 5: Isaiah 7:10-16***

*Notes/Thoughts/Impressions:*

*Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.*

## I APPLICATION

### *Incarnation*

Each week of Advent we want to invite you, your friends and family to move outside of yourselves and serve the world around you. **This week we want to invite you to pursue opportunities to serve the poor and come against injustices in your city.** Consider doing this as a community group or a group of friends. There are a variety of ways you can step toward this around you, but we offer two specific ways. First, there are many opportunities through the 405 Center. Check their website for connection. Second, consider giving to the Compassion Offering. This is a yearly offering that serves the poor and works against injustices in Oklahoma City and beyond throughout the year. Check out this website to connect.

**405  
CENTER**

• TOGETHER FOR THE CITY •

[405center.org](http://405center.org)

GLOBAL  
*Compassion*

OFFERING

[FrontlineChurch.com](http://FrontlineChurch.com)

## I MEDITATION / MUSING

### *Incarnation*

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## I HYMNS

### *Incarnation*

*This is war  
Like you ain't seen  
This winter's long,  
It's cold and mean  
With hangdog hearts  
We stood condemned,  
But the tide turns now  
At Bethlehem*

*This is war  
And born tonight,  
The Word as flesh,  
The Lord of Light,  
The Son of God,  
The low-born king;  
Who demons fear,  
Of whom angels sing*

*This is war  
On sin and death;  
The dark will take  
It's final breath  
It shakes the earth,  
Confounds all plans;  
The mystery  
Of God as man*

## THE WORD AS FLESH

### *the Lord of light*

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Magnification of God always leads to a transformed and obedient heart. And how have we been transformed? We are now a liberated people. We remember the slavery and we stand with our liberator who came to do battle against our captors: sin, Satan, and death. And even more, we see those still held captive. The transformed heart is becoming like it's liberator: proclaiming good news to the captive and rescuing the one who is enslaved.

## I HYMNS

### *Incarnation*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
Dwelt among us*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
Dwelt among us*

*And we have seen,  
We have seen  
We have seen His glory,*

*And we have seen,  
We have seen  
We have seen His glory,*

*And we have seen,  
We have seen  
We have seen His glory,*

*Glory as of the only Son  
From the Father,*

*Full of grace and truth*

*And we have seen,  
We have seen  
We have seen His glory,*

*And we have seen,  
We have seen  
We have seen His glory,*

*And we have seen,  
We have seen  
We have seen His glory,*

*And we have seen,  
We have seen  
We have seen His glory,*

## WE HAVE SEEN

# *His glory*

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We love those in darkness because we have seen the light and love of the Father that comes from the Son, full of grace and truth. "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace" - John 1:16. "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and send His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us we also ought to love one another" - 1 John 4:9-11

## I HYMNS

### *Incarnation*

*While shepherds kept their watching  
Over silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light*

*Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born*

*The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth*

*Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born*

*Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn*

*When I was a seeker  
I sought both night and day  
I asked the Lord to help me and  
He showed me the way*

# *Jesus Christ* **IS BORN**

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The centerpiece of Christmas and Advent is this: the immutable author of existence regarded we of lowly estate and by any means necessary, raised us up to be with him. And so we end our journey here—a hymn written in the late 1800's by a man of "lowly birth" to remind all of us that such were we all until Jesus came for us. This is the fruit of the Christian life and the primary function of the church: proclamation of the greatest news in word and deed. It is in this spirit that we are charged: go proclaim the gospel; go demonstrate the Kingdom; go and tell it on the mountain.

*Merry Christmas!*

 FRONTLINE