

THE Hopes AND Fears OF ALL THE YEARS

Arvada Covenant Church 2025 Advent Devotional Reading Plan

Advent is a season of waiting, reflection, and wonder. It's a time when we remember that God entered a world filled with both hope and fear—and still does today. Each week, this Scripture reading plan invites you to slow down, open Scripture, and reflect on a question or two to help God meet you right where you are.

As you read and pray, may you encounter Emmanuel—God with us—in both your hopes and your fears.

Week One: November 30 – The Hopes and Fears of All the Years

As we begin the countdown to Christmas, we come with the same struggles as those who waited for salvation 2,000 years ago. The gospel calls us to increase in love for one another in the midst of our hopes and fears. When we lean into love, salvation begins to emerge in us, for us, and for the world.

Weekly Readings

Day 1: Isaiah 11:1–10	A shoot from the stump of Jesse
Day 2: Romans 15:4–13	Christ, the hope of Jews and Gentiles
Day 3: Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19	The reign of righteousness and peace
Day 4: Matthew 1:18–25	Emmanuel, God with us
Day 5: Philippians 4:4–9	The peace of God guards our hearts

Daily Reflection:

Where are hope and fear intertwined in your life right now? How can God's love lead you toward peace this Advent?

Week Two: December 7 – The Fear of Disappointment

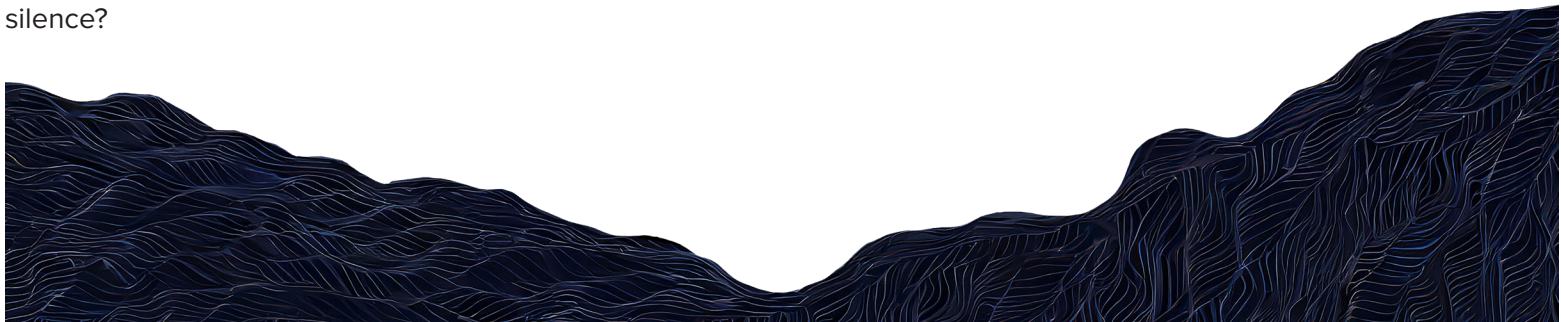
After 400 years of silence, God breaks through. Zechariah and Elizabeth faced disappointment that God's promise might come without them. Yet through waiting, silence and surrender, new life was born. Their son, John the Baptist, paved the way for the coming Jesus. The silence before redemption is not absence—it's preparation.

Weekly Readings

Day 1: Luke 1:5–25	Zechariah's silence and promise
Day 2: Malachi 4:1–6	The promise of Elijah
Day 3: Psalm 130	Waiting for redemption
Day 4: Romans 8:18–28	Hope in the waiting
Day 5: Hebrews 10:19–25	Hold fast without wavering

Daily Reflection:

When has disappointment made it hard to hear God's voice? What does it mean for you to "be still" and trust God in the silence?



Week Three: December 14 – Coming Home

The prophets called people home—to God, to community, to love. Advent invites us to return home, by turning our hearts towards Christ for this is what truly matters.

Weekly Readings

Day 1: Luke 3:7–18	Prepare the way
Day 2: Zephaniah 3:14–20	The Lord rejoices over you
Day 3: Psalm 85:1–13	God restores and revives His people
Day 4: Luke 2:1–21	The birth of Jesus
Day 5: John 14:1–14	My Father will make His home with you



Daily Reflection:

Where is life feeling chaotic or unstable? What would it look like to welcome Jesus there?

Week Four: December 21 – Be Not Afraid!

Simply being afraid will do us no good. The first words of the angel to Mary were “Do not be afraid.” Like Mary, we can choose humility and hope instead of fear, trusting that God is doing something new among us.

Weekly Readings

Day 1: Luke 1:26–38	The angel visits Mary
Day 2: Isaiah 9:2–7	Light in the darkness
Day 3: Psalm 27:1–6	The Lord is my light and salvation
Day 4: Philippians 2:1–11	The humility of Christ
Day 5: 1 John 4:7–21	Perfect love drives out fear

Daily Reflection:

Where is fear holding you back from saying “yes” to God’s invitation of hope like Mary and others have done?

Week Five: December 28 – Living in the Light: God Goes Before Us

Now that Christ has come, we are invited to live in His light, walking forward in trust beyond Christmas Day.

Weekly Readings

Day 1: Luke 2:25–35	Simeon’s hope fulfilled
Day 2: John 8:12	Jesus, the light of the world
Day 3: Romans 13:11–14	Live in the light
Day 4: 2 Tim. 1:7 / Heb. 11	Walk by faith, not fear
Day 5: Revelation 21:1–5	A new beginning

Daily Reflection:

How will you live differently because Jesus has come? What fears still linger, and how can you carry hope into the new year?



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