

PRAY EVERY DAY December 13, 2020 Resource

Advent Morning Prayer with Zechariah's Holy Spirit filled prayer from Luke 1:68-79, NRSV

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands 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 by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Advent Morning Prayer with Gabriel and Mary from Luke 1:28, 30-35, 37-38, NRSV

Gabriel – God's messenger

Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.

Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

[Pray the verse above again with your name and the names of those praying with you included]

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Mary – the Godbearer called to bear Jesus into the world

How can this be, since I am a virgin?

[What would you put after your "since"? Pray that again with your "since _____"]

Gabriel – God's messenger

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 holy; he will be called Son of God.

For nothing will be impossible with God.

Mary – the Godbearer called to bear Jesus into the world

Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.

Read the Gospel of Luke during Advent with one chapter each day.

December 13, 15th Day of Advent: Luke 15

16th Day of Advent: Luke 16

19th Day of Advent: Luke 19

17th Day of Advent: Luke 17

20th Day of Advent: Luke 20

18th Day of Advent: Luke 18

21st Day of Advent: Luke 21

Small Group or personal study

Read Luke 1:24-25, 39-45, 57-60

Practice daily Advent prayer with prayers above and readings from Luke.

- In Luke 1 with Gabriel's announcement to Zechariah it was promised that joy would come. The first mention of joy arriving was when Mary greeted Elizabeth and Elizabeth's child John leaped for joy in her womb. Elizabeth and Mary heard God's favor previously, and both were

miraculously pregnant, but joy was first seen when those two God-bearers came together. When has joy come in your life like a gift from God? What was going on and what made the experience joyful?

- JOY may be used as an acronym for: J = Jesus; O = Others; and Y = You. In the scriptures these three relationships all together usually create the conditions for joy to come. Joy from God is a gift which is often shared and experienced in relationship with others.

- Where is joy missing in your life? Could it be that Jesus is missing from how you interact in relationships with blessing, sharing peace, forgiving, or being kind? Could it be that others are missing from your relationship with God, so that you feel close with God but are missing deep or regular relationships with other people?

- Where is there joy in your life and relationships with Jesus and others? How are the ways of Jesus impacting your ways with others? How are the ways others follow Jesus impacting your life with joy?

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

December 2 – 23: “For When the Cares of the World Are Many”

December 14: 2 Corinthians 4:13-15

December 18: Psalm 66:1-4

December 15: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

December 19: Psalm 66:5-7

December 16: Hebrews 12:1-2

December 20: Psalm 66:8-12

December 17: Hebrews 12:12-13

Spend time in silence

Prayer for others and yourself

The Lord's Prayer

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Call to Pray at Noon Every Day

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share it this week in small group for support and prayer.