

PRAY EVERY DAY December 19, 2021 Resource

*Morning Prayer "Zechariah's Song" for Advent*

Pray Luke 1:68-79, Zechariah's Song, in the morning, even as the first words you say.

*A Prayer "For Quiet Confidence" from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2021 Challenge (Genesis to Revelation)*

December 20: Hebrews 11 - 13

December 24: 1 John 1 - 5

December 21: James 1 - 5

December 25: 2 John 1; 3 John 1; Jude 1

December 22: 1 Peter 1 - 5

December 26: Revelation 1 - 3

December 23: 2 Peter 1 - 3

*Small Group or personal study*

- Read Micah 5:2-5a

Bethlehem is noted as small or little. Despite its small size, God said the coming shepherd/ruler would come from there. God often begins small. Consider Jesus coming as a newborn and first being laid in a food trough for animals which we affectionately call a manger. What are the small ways you have noticed God has come in the scriptures or your life?

- God's grace and salvation often begin in small ways, but do not remain there. Though the shepherd/ruler will come from little Bethlehem (v. 2) "he shall be great to the ends of the earth" (v. 4). Imagine what Micah would think about you reading the promises of God and knowing something about Jesus when you live to the ends of the earth compared to Micah, are likely a Gentile (non-Jew), and live about 2,700 years after Micah. You are like the ends of the earth. How have you responded to Jesus?

- How have you made room for Jesus the shepherd/ruler?
- How have you allowed Jesus to feed you in the strength of the Lord?
- In what ways is Jesus great in your life? In what ways is Jesus still small?
- One of the ways Jesus as the shepherd/ruler would be different from Israel and Judah's

previous human kings is that Jesus would be "the one of peace" (v. 5). The fourth Sunday of Advent we light candle remembering Jesus is our Prince of peace. How have you seen Jesus bring peace in the scriptures and your life? Where is there still war or worry in your relationships and life? How could you welcome Jesus as your peace into the uncertainty or unsettledness around you?

*The Serenity Prayer (Long Form)*

God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
enjoying one moment at a time,

accepting hardship as the pathway to peace;  
taking, as He did, his sinful world as it is,  
not as I would have it;  
trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His will;  
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him forever and ever in the next.  
Amen.

*Spend time in silence*  
*Prayer for others and yourself*  
*The Lord's Prayer*

*Evening Prayer "The Magnificat" for Advent*

Pray Luke 1:47-55, Mary's Song or The Magnificat, in the evening as a time of looking back on what God has already done and what God will do.

*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.

*Bedtime Prayer "Simeon's Song" for Advent*

Pray Luke 2:29-32, Simeon's Song, before you go to sleep each day, maybe even as your last words you say.