

Advent Stations Prayer Service

First Advent Station: A New Creation

Through the story of Adam and Eve and the promise of a new heaven and earth, we are reminded of God's faithfulness and His desire to restore and renew us. As we meditate on these passages, may we be filled with hope and anticipation for the coming of Christ, who brings new life and eternal joy.

Old Testament Reading for First Advent Station

Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth.

Genesis 1:26-28

The creation of Adam and Eve is a foundational story in the Bible, and it holds great significance for our understanding of God's plan for humanity. In Genesis 1:26-28, we read about how God created Adam and Eve in His own image, giving them dominion over all the earth. This passage reminds us of the inherent dignity and worth of every human being, as we are made in the likeness of God Himself.

New Testament Reading for First Advent Station

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."

The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:1-5

In Revelation 21:1-5, we catch a glimpse of the future glory that awaits us. John describes a new heaven and a new earth, where God will dwell with His people and wipe away every tear from their eyes. This vision of the future reminds us that God's plan for humanity is not limited to

our brokenness and sin. He is working to restore and renew all things, bringing about a new creation where righteousness and peace will reign.

The creation of Adam and Eve points to the original goodness of humanity, while the vision of the new heaven and earth in Revelation reminds us of God's redemptive plan. In the season of Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, who came to restore and reconcile us to God.

Prayer for First Advent Station

Dear God, thank you for creating us in your image and for the gift of redemption through your Son, Jesus Christ. As we journey through this Advent season, help us to reflect on the beauty of your creation and the hope of your promised renewal. May we be filled with anticipation and joy as we await the coming of Christ, who makes all things new. Amen.

Second Advent Station: God's Promises

Through the story of Abraham and Sarah, we are reminded that God's promises are sure and that He is always faithful. May we find hope and encouragement in this story, knowing that God remembers us and has a plan for our lives.

Old Testament Reading for Second Advent Station

Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There in the tent," he replied. One of them said, "I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will then have a son." Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, just behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years, and Sarah was past the point of child bearing.

The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would; the LORD did for her as he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

Genesis 18:9-11; 21:1-3

In the story of Abraham and Sarah, we witness the power of God's promise and His faithfulness to His people. Genesis 18:9-11 and 21:1-3 tell us about how Abraham and Sarah, despite their old age and Sarah's barrenness, received the incredible news that they would have a son. This miraculous promise was fulfilled when Sarah gave birth to Isaac, the child of promise.

This story holds a powerful message of hope and trust in God's timing and plan. It reminds us that God is always aware of our deepest desires and concerns, even when it seems impossible for them to be fulfilled. Just as He remembered Abraham and Sarah, He remembers each one of us and has a plan for our lives.

New Testament Reading for Second Advent Station

Abraham believed, hoping against hope, that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "Thus shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when

he considered his own body as already dead (for he was almost a hundred years old) and the dead womb of Sarah.

He did not doubt God's promise in unbelief; rather, he was empowered by faith and gave glory to God and was fully convinced that what he had promised he was also able to do.

Romans 4:18-21

In Romans 4:18-21, Paul highlights the unwavering faith of Abraham in God's promise, despite Abraham's old age and Sarah's barrenness. This passage underlines that the realization of God's promises hinges on faith and trust in Him, not on human circumstances or capabilities. It reminds us that the promises of God are assured not by our physical conditions or efforts but through belief in His power and faithfulness.

We can find comfort and encouragement in the story of Abraham and Sarah and the words from Paul. They teach us to trust in God's promises, even when they seem impossible. This reminds us that God is always faithful and that His plans for us are greater than we can imagine.

Prayer for Second Advent Station

Dear God, thank you for the story of Abraham and Sarah, which reminds us of your faithfulness and the power of your promises. Help us to trust in your timing and plan for our lives, even when things seem impossible. Give us the strength to wait patiently and the faith to believe that you will fulfill your promises to us. Amen.

Third Advent Station: Angelic Visits

Through the story of Manoah and his wife, the parents of Samson, we are reminded that God's plans are not limited by our circumstances. May we find hope and encouragement in this story, knowing that God can use us for His purposes, regardless of our perceived limitations.

Old Testament Reading for Third Advent Station

There was a certain man from Zorah, of the clan of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. His wife was barren and had borne no children. An angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her:

"Though you are barren and have had no children, you will conceive and bear a son. Now, then, be careful to drink no wine or beer and to eat nothing unclean, for you will conceive and bear a son. No razor shall touch his head, for the boy is to be a Nazirite for God from the womb. It is he who will begin to save Israel from the power of the Philistines."

The woman went and told her husband, "A man of God came to me; he had the appearance of an angel of God, fearsome indeed. I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name.

But he said to me, 'You will conceive and bear a son. So drink no wine or beer, and eat nothing unclean. For the boy shall be a Nazirite for God from the womb, until the day of his death.'

The woman bore a son and named him Samson, and when the boy grew up the LORD blessed him.

Judges 13:2-7, 24

In the story of Manoah and his wife, we witness the miraculous announcement of the birth of Samson, a judge chosen by God to deliver the Israelites from the oppression of the Philistines. Judges 13:2-7, 24 tell us about how the angel appeared to Manoah's wife, who was barren, and foretold the birth of a son who would be dedicated to God from birth.

This story holds a powerful message of God's ability to work through our perceived limitations. Manoah's wife, like Sarah and Elizabeth, was unable to conceive a child. However, God's plan was not hindered by her barrenness. This story reminds us that God can use anyone, regardless of their circumstances, to fulfill His purposes.

New Testament Reading for Third Advent Station

In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.

Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him.

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink.

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. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord."

Luke 1:5-17

The announcement of Samson's birth to his previously barren mother mirrors the announcement to Elizabeth regarding John the Baptist. Both announcements were made by angels, foretelling that the children would be Nazirites dedicated to God from birth. Samson and John the Baptist were destined to lead Israel and prepare the way for greater works of God, with Samson beginning to free Israel from the Philistines and John heralding the coming of Jesus Christ.

The birth of Samson also foreshadows the birth of Jesus Christ. Just as Samson was set apart for a special purpose, Jesus was born to save humanity from sin and death. Samson's strength and victories over the Philistines prefigure Christ's ultimate victory over death through His

resurrection. This reminds us that our salvation and deliverance come solely from the Lord, not from our own strength or abilities.

Prayer for Third Advent Station

Dear God, thank you for the story of Manoah and his wife, which reminds us of your power to work through our limitations. Help us to trust in your plan for our lives, even when things seem impossible. Give us the faith to believe that you can use us for your purposes, just as you used Samson and John the Baptist. Amen.

Fourth Advent Station: Bethlehem

Through the story of Ruth and Boaz, we are reminded that God's plan is not limited by our prejudices or shortcomings. May we learn to embrace inclusivity and recognize the potential for redemption in every person and situation we encounter.

Old Testament Reading for Fourth Advent Station

I also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, as my wife, in order to raise up a family for her late husband on his estate, so that the name of the deceased may not perish from his people and his place. Do you witness this today?"

All those at the gate, including the elders, said, "We do. May the LORD make this woman come into your house like Rachel and Leah, who between them built up the house of Israel. Prosper in Ephrathah! Bestow a name in Bethlehem!

With the offspring the LORD will give you from this young woman, may your house become like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah." Boaz took Ruth. When they came together as husband and wife, the LORD enabled her to conceive and she bore a son.

Ruth 4:10-13

After her husband's death, Ruth chose to stay with Naomi, her Israelite mother-in-law, and accompanied her back to Bethlehem. As a Moabite, Ruth faced significant adversity there due to the Moabites' historical enmity with Israel and differing religious practices. Her foreign origin would have subjected her to social stigma and suspicion in a community that valued lineage and shared faith.

Ruth's loyalty and faithfulness lead her to glean in the fields of Boaz, a relative of Naomi's late husband. Boaz, recognizing Ruth's virtue, takes her as his wife, and they have a son named Obed. This lineage eventually leads to the birth of King David, and ultimately, to Jesus Christ.

Bethlehem, a small town, initially turned away Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, yet it became renowned for its connection to Jesus's birth, illustrating that God can transform even our flaws into demonstrations of His mercy and might.

New Testament Reading for Fourth Advent Station

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1-7

In Bethlehem, a town brimming with people due to the census, Mary and Joseph found every inn full, with no room to accommodate them. Amidst this rejection, they sought shelter in a humble stable. It was here, in these modest circumstances, that Mary gave birth to Jesus.

This convergence of Ruth and Boaz's story with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem highlights God's providential plan. Despite its initial inhospitality, Bethlehem became celebrated as the birthplace of Jesus, a central figure in Christianity. It is a reminder that God can use even the most unlikely places and people to fulfill His purposes.

Prayer for Fourth Advent Station

Dear God, thank you for the story of Ruth and Boaz, which reminds us of your ability to transform our flaws into demonstrations of your mercy and might. Help us to be open to the strangers and outsiders in our lives, recognizing that they too may be part of your divine plan. Give us the courage to embrace inclusivity and to see the potential for redemption in every situation. Amen.

Fifth Advent Station: Songs of Praise

Through the stories of Hannah and Mary, we are reminded of the power of prayer and the faithfulness of God. May we learn from their examples and cultivate a life of prayer and praise, trusting in God's perfect timing and plan.

Old Testament Reading for Fifth Advent Station

And Hannah prayed: "My heart exults in the LORD, my horn is exalted by my God. I have swallowed up my enemies; I rejoice in your victory. There is no Holy One like the LORD; there is no Rock like our God. Speak boastfully no longer, Do not let arrogance issue from your mouths.

For an all-knowing God is the LORD, a God who weighs actions. The bows of the mighty are broken, while the tottering gird on strength. The well-fed hire themselves out for bread, while the hungry no longer have to toil. The barren wife bears seven sons, while the mother of many languishes.

The LORD puts to death and gives life, casts down to Sheol and brings up again. The LORD makes poor and makes rich, humbles, and also exalts. He raises the needy from the dust; from the ash heap lifts up the poor, To seat them with nobles and make a glorious throne their heritage. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he has set the world upon them.

He guards the footsteps of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall perish in the darkness; for not by strength does one prevail. The LORD's foes shall be shattered; the Most High in heaven thunders; the LORD judges the ends of the earth. May he give strength to his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed!"

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Hannah had prayed fervently for a child. Despite her barrenness, she remained faithful and poured out her heart to God. God heard her prayer and blessed her with a son, Samuel, who would become a great prophet and judge in Israel. Hannah's prayer is a reminder that God hears our deepest desires and answers them according to His perfect timing.

Hannah and her husband Elkanah prioritized prayer, unlike many who treat it as a last resort. Prayer connects us with God, aligning us with His will and assuring us that He listens. While we may not always grasp His will, it doesn't deter our praise, which should naturally emanate from a faithful heart.

New Testament Reading for Fifth Advent Station

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Luke 1:46-55

Mary, upon hearing the news of her own pregnancy, visits Elizabeth, who is carrying John the Baptist. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognizes the significance of Mary's child and blesses her. In response, Mary offers this beautiful song of praise known as the Magnificat. This song magnifies the greatness of God and acknowledges His faithfulness to His people.

The connection between these two passages highlights the power of prayer and the faithfulness of God. Just as Hannah's prayer was answered with the birth of Samuel, Mary's faithfulness was answered with the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world. Both women responded with songs of praise, recognizing God's hand in their lives.

Prayer for Fifth Advent Station

Heavenly Father, thank you for the example of Hannah and Mary, who teach us the importance of prayer and praise. Help us to prioritize prayer in our lives, knowing that you hear our every word. May our hearts overflow with praise, even in the midst of uncertainty, as we trust in your perfect plan. Amen.

Sixth Advent Station: A Reign Established

Through the story of David's promise to Bathsheba to make her son Solomon the king, we are reminded of our need for a greater redeemer. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of this longing, and through him, we find forgiveness, redemption, and eternal life. May we always turn to him as our ultimate source of hope and salvation.

Old Testament Reading for Sixth Advent Station

The king swore, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress, this very day I will fulfill the oath I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Your son Solomon shall be king after me and shall sit upon my throne in my place.'"

Bowing to the floor in homage to the king, Bathsheba said, "May my lord, King David, live forever!"

1 Kings 1:29-31

In 1 Kings 1:29-31, we witness a significant moment in David's life. As he nears the end of his reign, Bathsheba approaches him with a request. She reminds David of his promise to make their son, Solomon, the next king. Despite David's past sins of deceit, adultery, and murder to possess Bathsheba, God did not abandon him. This promise to Bathsheba is a testament to God's faithfulness and His ability to bring redemption even in the midst of our failures.

However reflecting on Solomon's reign, one sees a wise king, yet not without failings. His grandiose undertakings burdened his subjects with labor and taxes. Marrying foreign wives, Solomon allowed his heart to stray towards other gods, straining his covenant with the Lord. These missteps not only marred his legacy but also laid the groundwork for later division.

New Testament Reading for Sixth Advent Station

Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

Humanity truly longs for a redeemer who can truly save us from our sins. David's promise to Bathsheba and the limitations of Solomon highlight the need for a greater king, a greater savior.

This anticipation of a redeemer is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who came to earth to save us from our sins and reconcile us with God.

Philippians 2:9-11 declares Jesus as Lord, whose divine kingship and power to atone for sins surpass any human capacity. While Solomon, a wise and mighty king, could lead a nation and build a temple, he could not offer redemption. It is Jesus, whom God exalted above all, who is revered as the eternal Savior, indicating a kingship that transcends time, extending salvation beyond the scope of human means.

Prayer for Sixth Advent Station

Heavenly Father, thank you for your faithfulness and your promise of redemption. We acknowledge our need for a savior who is greater than any human being. Help us to turn to Jesus, the ultimate redeemer, who can save us from our sins and bring us into a right relationship with you. May we find hope and assurance in his sacrifice. Amen.

Seventh Advent Station: The New Ark

Through the story of the ark of the covenant and the connection to Mary as the new ark, we are reminded of the hope and promise of salvation that comes with the Advent season. May we find comfort and refuge in Mary's role as the vessel of God's love, and may her example inspire us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Old Testament Reading for Seventh Advent Station

Moses brought the ark into the tabernacle and hung the curtain veil, thus screening off the ark of the covenant, as the LORD had commanded him.

Thus Moses finished all the work. Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting, because the cloud settled down upon it and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Exodus 40:21, 33-35

The Ark of the Covenant, a sacred chest described in the Old Testament, held items of profound importance to the Israelites: the stone tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments given to Moses, a jar of manna symbolizing God's provision during their travels through the desert, and Aaron's rod, which miraculously budded to affirm his role as high priest.

These artifacts together represented God's covenant, His guidance, and His assurance of authority within the community of His chosen people. The Ark of the Covenant was where the presence and glory of God dwelt among the Israelites.

New Testament Reading for Seventh Advent Station

And the angel said to Mary in reply, "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.

In Luke 1:35

In Luke 1:35 the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that the Holy Spirit will “overshadow” her. This language echoes the Old Testament description of the glory cloud overshadowing the tabernacle where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. Mary’s role as the new ark foreshadows the coming of Christ, who will bring about a new covenant and offer salvation to all who believe.

In contemplating Mary as the Ark of the Covenant, we recognize her unique role in the divine plan of salvation. Like the ancient Ark, which housed the sacred tablets of the Law, Mary carried within her the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. Where the Ark was the center of God’s presence among the Israelites, Mary becomes the vessel through which God Himself enters the world. Her yes to God ushers in a new covenant of grace, much as the Ark stood as a sign of the original covenant between God and His people.

Prayer for Seventh Advent Station

Heavenly Father, we are grateful for Mary, revered as the Ark of the Covenant, who bore our Savior, Jesus Christ. In this season of Advent, let her example inspire us to become bearers of Christ in our own lives. Grant us the grace to emulate her willingness and purity of heart. May the realization of Your Word made flesh, who dwelt within her, guide us to a deeper faith and a more profound love for You. Amen.

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