



## Christmas Day – 2023 Advent Devotional

By: Nick Kyrouac

Take a moment, slow down, and breath. Maybe you are by yourself, with your family, or with your friends. Turn on some relaxing holiday music and sit near your Advent candles.

### Light your WHITE advent candle, the Christ Candle.

As you sit and breath, reflect on why you're taking some time away from your busy schedule to refocus your mind.

What are your favorite Christmas memories? How has Jesus blessed you this Christmas?

### PRAY

Lord,

**Thank you for the opportunity to spend time with You. Help us block out the distractions that we have created around the holiday season and allow us to focus our minds and hearts on the truths of your word. In this time, grant us hearts of gratitude for the many blessings that you have given us. Refresh our spirits as we read of your promises and gifts. Empower us through your Spirit as we celebrate your arrival and await your return. We ask these things in Jesus' name.**

**Amen.**

## Read The Christmas Story

### The Birth of Jesus

2 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. <sup>4</sup> And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he

had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.<sup>5</sup> He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.<sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

### **The Shepherds and Angels**

<sup>8</sup>That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.<sup>9</sup> Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified,<sup>10</sup> but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.<sup>11</sup> The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!<sup>12</sup> And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in highest heaven,  
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup>They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.<sup>17</sup> After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child.<sup>18</sup> All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished,<sup>19</sup> but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.<sup>20</sup> The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

**Luke 2:8-20 (NLT)**

## **Something to Consider.**

What has God blessed you with? Family, friends, a home, a job, life. Today as you celebrate Christ's birth, do not forget to also enjoy the blessings that he has given you.

King Solomon wrote in the book of Ecclesiastes,

**<sup>15</sup> So I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy life. That way they will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives them under the sun.**

**Ecclesiastes 8:15**

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good!  
His faithful love endures forever.**

**1 Chronicles 16:34**

## **PRAY**

Lord,

Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for our many blessings. Thank you for the **LOVE** that you demonstrated to us through your arrival, your sacrifice, your resurrection, and your second coming. Thank you for the **HOPE** that provides us **JOY** and **PEACE**. We ask that during this time of waiting and anticipation for your return, grant us strength and perseverance that is only possible through your Holy Spirit. Fill us with this gift of **LOVE** and grant us opportunities to share it with those who have not yet heard about it. Let us see and **LOVE** others in the same way that you do.

Amen.

<sup>9</sup> "Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread,  
<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

**Matthew 6:9-13**