



*ADVENT  
2022  
SCRIPTURE  
READING  
GUIDE*

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## **THE LITURGICAL YEAR**

While the four-week Advent season occurs at the close of our year, it marks the beginning of the Liturgical Church calendar. The Liturgical Year was developed during the first centuries of the early church as a means of marking time redemptively. We as a Church look forward, in part, by looking backward - remembering that God has acted, does act, and will continue to act in our lives. Advent begins our new year as we wait for, then celebrate the first coming of Christ, anticipate His second coming, and meditate on His Presence in our day-to-day lives.

## **ADVENT**

The word Advent, derived from the Latin *adventus*, means, literally, “coming” or “arrival.” However, Advent is not merely, or even primarily, a time of celebration - it is the time leading into celebration. Fleming Rutledge writes, “Advent begins in the darkness.” This statement remains true for us today. Though Advent culminates in our celebration of Jesus’ birth over 2000 years ago in a manger, it reflects far more.

As the culture around us rushes into Christmas with incessant ads, bright lights, and cheery songs, the Church slows down to sit in the darkness, to watch, to wait. Advent is a time, as Paul states in Romans 8, to “wait with eager longing,” “groaning” for new creation, Christ’s second coming. How do we do this? How do we come to a place of eager longing and groaning? The answer, of course, is found sitting in the darkness of this world. Confronting, with truth and honesty, a world filled with war, racism, political unrest, and countless injustices.

Looking into the darkness does not consist only of looking externally. It may, in fact, be most important that we look inwardly, at our own darkness, our own sin, at the selfishness and anger, pride and greed, lust and envy in our own hearts. It is in this darkness that Jesus comes not bearing light, but being light.

Staring into this darkness, sitting with it, makes the celebration of God’s incarnational presence far greater. As Tish Harrison Warren writes: “We need collective space, as a society, to grieve — to look long and hard at what is cracked and fractured in our world and our lives. Only then can celebration become deep, rich and resonant, not as a saccharine act of delusion but as a defiant act of hope.”

## **CHRISTMASTIDE**

At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus’ past arrival and continue to hope for His second coming. We celebrate the fulfillment of our Advent expectations and welcome light into the darkness. Within the Liturgical Calendar, Christmas is a twelve-day celebration of Jesus’ presence in our world. It is a time of celebration and rejoicing, a joyous, extended feast.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This year at Reunion, we are focusing on four major themes:

- Hope > Despair
- Peace > Anxiety
- Joy > Sorrow
- Love > All

This guide centers on one of these themes each week, providing a reflection as well as weekly liturgical prayers and daily scripture readings. The scripture lessons each week span both the Old and New Testaments.

Remember: the goal of this guide is not to “accomplish” anything specific, but to draw near to God, to reflect on and dwell within the gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace, and to wait well for Christ’s second coming.

A four-movement rhythm is suggested to engage the Scriptures and commune with God. The guide begins on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, and ends with the 12th day of Christmastide, Thursday, January 5th. If you miss a day, we encourage you to pick up with the next day’s reading and liturgy.

The four movements suggested for engaging Scripture in this guide are:

### **SURRENDER, LISTEN, MEDITATE, RESPOND.**

The movements suggested in this guide are just that - a suggestion. Feel free to go about your normal rhythms or to utilize a different rhythm. These rhythms are tools to help you commune with God, and they are described below.

#### SURRENDER to the Presence of God

Take a moment to sit still and quiet yourself - your heart and your mind. Breathe deeply and recognize that you are in the Presence of God. There is nothing you need to do to be in God’s Presence. He is near. Use anything that may be helpful to you to feel and enter God’s presence - this could be silence or quiet music, deep breathing, or a simple prayer word. The goal is to shut out distractions and be present and open to God and His Word.

#### LISTEN to the Scriptures

Read through the Scripture 1-2 times. Remember the goal is not to gain information but to experience and cultivate intimacy with God. Read slowly, and ask yourself questions about the text. Some example questions are provided below - we often find it helpful to write down thoughts surrounding these questions as they arrive.

- What does the Scripture tell me about God?
- What does the Scripture tell me about mankind?
- What does the Scripture tell me about God’s heart for the people and world around me?
- What does the Scripture tell me about God’s heart for me?



## **HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE (CONT)**

### **MEDITATE on the Scriptures**

Quieting yourself and maintaining an open presence to God, revisit the passage once more. If you wrote down anything in response to the Scripture, reflect on that. If any specific words or phrases in the passage stood out, sit with and dwell on them.

### **RESPOND in Prayer**

Talk to God about your reflections - whether it's awe or frustration, gratefulness or anger, be honest with God. The goal is to simply respond to anything God, through His Word, has revealed to you.



*HOPE*



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION | HOPE > DESPAIR

The entire life of a good Christian is in fact an exercise of holy desire. You do not yet see what you long for, but the very act of desiring prepares you, so that when He comes you may see and be utterly satisfied.

Suppose you are going to fill some holder or container, and you know you will be given a large amount. Then you set about stretching your sack or wineskin or whatever it is. Why? Because you know the quantity you will have to put in it and your eyes tell you there is not enough room. By stretching it, therefore, you increase the capacity of the sack, and this is how God deals with us. Simply by making us wait He increases our desire, which in turn enlarges the capacity of our soul, making it able to receive what is to be given to us.

So, my brethren, let us continue to desire, for we shall be filled. Take note of Saint Paul stretching as it were his ability to receive what is to come: Not that I have already obtained this, he said, or am made perfect. Brethren, I do not consider that I have already obtained it. We might ask him, "If you have not yet obtained it, what are you doing in this life? This one thing I do, answers Paul, forgetting what lies behind, and stretching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the prize to which I am called in the life above. Not only did Paul say he stretched forward, but he also declared that he pressed on toward a chosen goal. He realized in fact that he was still short of receiving what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived.

Such is our Christian life. By desiring heaven we exercise the powers of our soul. Now this exercise will be effective only to the extent that we free ourselves from desires leading to infatuation with this world. Let me return to the example I have already used, of filling an empty container. God means to fill each of you with what is good; so cast out what is bad! If he wishes to fill you with honey and you are full of sour wine, where is the honey to go? The vessel must be emptied of its contents and then be cleansed. Yes, it must be cleansed even if you have to work hard and scour it. It must be made fit for the new thing, whatever it may be.

We may go on speaking figuratively of honey, gold or wine—but whatever we say we cannot express the reality we are to receive. The name of that reality is God. But who will claim that in that one syllable we utter the full expanse of our heart's desire? Therefore, whatever we say is necessarily less than the full truth. We must extend ourselves toward the measure of Christ so that when He comes he may fill us with His presence. Then we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

St. Augustine, *Tractates on the first letter of John*



# WEEK 1 OF ADVENT | HOPE > DESPAIR

## OPENING PRAYER FOR WEEK 1

In our secret yearnings we wait for your coming  
and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will.

Give us the grace and the impatience  
to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,  
to the edges of our fingertips.  
We do not want our several worlds to end.  
Come in your power and come in our weakness  
in any case  
and make all things new.

- *Advent Prayer by Walter Brueggeman*

## SURRENDER to the Presence of God

*Pause to be still, quiet yourself, and breathe slowly. Become aware that you are in the presence of the Holy.*

*God is near to you because He loves you.*

## LISTEN to the Scriptures

*As you read, remember the goal is not primarily information, but intimacy with God. Read the passage slowly, asking yourself first what the scripture says about God. Ask what the scripture says about God's heart for the people and world around you. Ask what the scripture says about God's heart towards you.*

*"For it is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself." - A.W. Tozer*

## READINGS FOR WEEK 1

- Sunday: Isaiah 9:2-7
- Monday: Isaiah 2:1-10
- Tuesday: Psalm 47
- Wednesday: Luke 1:46-55
- Thursday: Hebrews 4:1-16
- Friday: Ephesians 1:3-10
- Saturday: Romans 8:18-25

## MEDITATE on the Scriptures

*Becoming aware of God's presence again, revisit the passage once more. Reflect on what the passage reveals about God and God's heart. Sit with and dwell on any words or phrases that jump out.*



## **WEEK 1 OF ADVENT | HOPE > DESPAIR**

### RESPOND in Prayer

*Talk to God about your reflections, whether it's awe or frustration, gratefulness or anger, be honest with God. The goal is to simply respond to anything God, through His Word, has revealed to you.*

### CLOSING PRAYER FOR WEEK 1

How long, O LORD? Will you continue to forget me?  
How long will you hide from me?  
How long will I have sorrow in my heart?  
Consider me, answer me, O LORD.  
But I trust in your steadfast love,  
My heart shall rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the LORD.

*- Prayer adapted from Psalm 13*



*PEACE*





## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION | PEACE > ANXIETY

*If Only for Once*, Rainer Maria Rilke

If only for once it were still.  
If the *not quite right* and the *why this*  
could be muted, and the neighbor's laughter,  
and the static my senses make—  
if all of it didn't keep me from coming awake—

Then in one vast thousandfold thought  
I could think you up to where thinking ends.

I could possess you,  
even for the brevity of a smile,  
to offer you  
to all that lives,  
in gladness.



## WEEK 2 OF ADVENT | PEACE > ANXIETY

### OPENING PRAYER FOR WEEK 2

O God of peace, who taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved,  
In quietness and in confidence shall be our strength:  
By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your peace-filled presence,  
Where we may be still and know that You are our God. Amen

*Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer, Prayer 59*

### SURRENDER to the Presence of God

*Pause to be still, quiet yourself, and breathe slowly. Become aware that you are in the presence of the Holy.*

*God is near to you because He loves you.*

### LISTEN to the Scriptures

*As you read, remember the goal is not primarily information, but intimacy with God. Read the passage slowly, asking yourself first what the scripture says about God. Ask what the scripture says about God's heart for the people and world around you. Ask what the scripture says about God's heart towards you.*

*"For it is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself." - A.W. Tozer*

### READINGS FOR WEEK 2

- Sunday: John 6:16-21
- Monday: Isaiah 11:1-10
- Tuesday: Psalm 3
- Wednesday: Psalm 23
- Thursday: John 14:15-31
- Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-22
- Saturday: Romans 5:1-11

### MEDITATE on the Scriptures

*Becoming aware of God's presence again, revisit the passage once more. Reflect on what the passage reveals about God and God's heart. Sit with and dwell on any words or phrases that jump out.*



## **WEEK 2 OF ADVENT: PEACE > ANXIETY**

### RESPOND in Prayer

*Talk to God about your reflections, whether it's awe or frustration, gratefulness or anger, be honest with God. The goal is to simply respond to anything God, through His Word, has revealed to you.*

### CLOSING PRAYER FOR WEEK 2

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect from the Book of Common Prayer



*JOY*





## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION | JOY > SORROW

There is not one of us whose life has not already been touched somewhere with joy, so that in order to make it real to us, to show it forth, it should be enough for Jesus simply to remind us of it, to make us remember the joyous moments of our own lives. Yet this is not easy because, ironically enough, these are likely to be precisely the moments that we do not associate with religion. We tend to think that joy is not only not properly religious but that it is even the opposite of religion. We tend to think that religion is sitting stiff and antiseptic and a little bored and that joy is laughter and freedom and reaching out our arms to embrace the whole wide and preposterous earth which is so beautiful that sometimes it nearly breaks our hearts.

We need to be reminded that at its heart Christianity is joy and that laughter and freedom and the reaching out of arms are the essence of it. We need to be reminded too that joy is not the same as happiness. Happiness is man-made—a happy home, a happy marriage, a happy relationship with our friends and within our jobs. We work for these things, and if we are careful and wise and lucky, we can usually achieve them. Happiness is one of the highest achievements of which we are capable, and when it is ours, we take credit for it, and properly so.

But we never take credit for our moments of joy because we know that they are not man-made and that we are never really responsible for them. They come when they come. They are always sudden and quick and unrepeatable. The unspeakable joy sometimes of just being alive. The miracle sometimes of being just who we are with the blue sky and the green grass, the faces of our friends and the waves of the ocean, being just what they are. The joy of release, of being suddenly well when before we were sick, of being forgiven when before we were ashamed and afraid, of finding ourselves loved when we were lost and alone. The joy of love, which is the joy of the flesh as well as the spirit. But each of us can supply his own moments, so just two more things.

One is that joy is always all-encompassing; there is nothing of us left over to hate with or to be afraid with, to feel guilty with or to be selfish about. Joy is where the whole being is pointed in one direction, and it is something that by its nature a man never hoards but always wants to share. The second thing is that joy is a mystery because it can happen anywhere, anytime, even under the most unpromising circumstances, even in the midst of suffering, with tears in its eyes. Even nailed to a tree.

What Jesus is saying is that men are made for joy and that anyone who is truly joyous has a right to say that he is doing God's will on this earth. Where you have known joy, you have known Him.

Frederick Buechner, *The Hungering Dark*



## WEEK 3 OF ADVENT | JOY > SORROW

### OPENING PRAYER FOR WEEK 3

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation.  
Make us ready for the message that prepares the way,  
that with uprightness of heart and holy joy  
we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

### SURRENDER to the Presence of God

*Pause to be still, quiet yourself, and breathe slowly. Become aware that you are in the presence of the Holy.*

*God is near to you because He loves you.*

### LISTEN to the Scriptures

*As you read, remember the goal is not primarily information, but intimacy with God. Read the passage slowly, asking yourself first what the scripture says about God. Ask what the scripture says about God's heart for the people and world around you. Ask what the scripture says about God's heart towards you.*

*"For it is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself." - A.W. Tozer*

### READINGS FOR WEEK 3

- Sunday: Isaiah 35:1-10
- Monday: Isaiah 7:10-17
- Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:14-17
- Wednesday: Psalm 126:1-6
- Thursday: Psalm 47
- Friday: John 1:1-18
- Saturday: James 1:2-16

### MEDITATE on the Scriptures

*Becoming aware of God's presence again, revisit the passage once more. Reflect on what the passage reveals about God and God's heart. Sit with and dwell on any words or phrases that jump out.*



## **WEEK 3 OF ADVENT | JOY > SORROW**

### RESPOND in Prayer

*Talk to God about your reflections, whether it's awe or frustration, gratefulness or anger, be honest with God. The goal is to simply respond to anything God, through His Word, has revealed to you.*

### CLOSING PRAYER FOR WEEK 3

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation,  
That your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming,  
may find in us a mansion prepared for himself;  
who lives and reigns with you,  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen

*- Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Book of Common Prayer*





*LOVE*



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION | LOVE > ALL

I began to know my story then. Like everybody's, it was going to be the story of living in the absence of the dead. What is the thread that holds it all together? Grief, I thought for a while. And grief is there sure enough, just about all the way through. From the time I was a girl, I have never been far from it. But grief is not a force and has no power to hold. You only bear it. Love is what carries you, for it is always there, even in the dark, or most in the dark, but shining out at times like gold stitches in a piece of embroidery.

Sometimes too I could see that love is a great room with a lot of doors, where we are invited to knock and come in. Though it contains all the world, the sun, moon, and stars, it is so small as to also be in our hearts. It is in the hearts of those who choose to come in. Some do not come in. Some may stay out forever. Some come in together and leave separately. Some come in and stay, until they die, and after.

Wendell Berry, Excerpt from *Hannah Coulter*

Love by George Herbert

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back  
Guilty of dust and sin.

But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,

Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,  
If I lacked any thing.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:  
Love said, You shall be he.

I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,  
I cannot look on thee.

Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,  
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame  
Go where it doth deserve.

And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?  
My dear, then I will serve.

You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:  
So I did sit and eat.



## WEEK 4 OF ADVENT | LOVE > ALL

### OPENING PRAYER FOR WEEK 4

Lord, surely we wait and we wait for you  
You who bent down and heard our cries  
You who drew us up from the pit, out of the deep mud  
And set our feet upon a rock, making our steps secure  
As we wait, Lord, put a new song in our mouths,  
A song of praise to our God

*- Prayer adapted from Psalm 40*

### SURRENDER to the Presence of God

*Pause to be still, quiet yourself, and breathe slowly. Become aware that you are in the presence of the Holy.*

*God is near to you because He loves you.*

### LISTEN to the Scriptures

*As you read, remember the goal is not primarily information, but intimacy with God. Read the passage slowly, asking yourself first what the scripture says about God. Ask what the scripture says about God's heart for the people and world around you. Ask what the scripture says about God's heart towards you.*

*"For it is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself." - A.W. Tozer*

### READINGS FOR WEEK 4

- Sunday: 1 John 4:7-21
- Monday: Ezekiel 36:16-29
- Tuesday: Psalm 36:1-12
- Wednesday: John 1:1-17
- Thursday: Romans 8:1-17
- Friday: Romans 8:18-39
- Christmas Eve: Matthew 1:1-25

### MEDITATE on the Scriptures

*Becoming aware of God's presence again, revisit the passage once more. Reflect on what the passage reveals about God and God's heart. Sit with and dwell on any words or phrases that jump out.*



## **WEEK 4 OF ADVENT | LOVE > ALL**

### RESPOND in Prayer

*Talk to God about your reflections, whether it's awe or frustration, gratefulness or anger, be honest with God. The goal is to simply respond to anything God, through His Word, has revealed to you.*

### CLOSING PRAYER FOR WEEK 4

Ever present God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.  
Grant that we may be found watching for the coming of your Son.  
Save us from undue love of the world,  
That we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord,  
And so abide in him, that when he shall appear,  
We may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*- A prayer from the Church of Scotland*





*CHRISTMASTIDE*



## CHRISTMASTIDE REFLECTION

Lots of people these days are seeking recollection, writing books about it, urging us to do it. It seems like a nice idea all right — until you try it. What a lot of the books don't tell you about is the terror. To know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge may mean not knowing much of anything else.

With the peace and quiet of recollection may come the stark edge of fear that this doing nothing, this being, this offering of oneself for God to be the actor, cannot possibly be enough. It all seems so passive. Do something, produce, perform, earn your keep. Don't just sit there. It may be good and well for Mary to offer space in herself for God to dwell and be born into the world, but few of us possess the radical belief such recollection requires.

What matters in the deeper experience of contemplation is not the doing and accomplishing. What matters is relationship, the being with. We create holy ground and give birth to Christ in our time not by doing but by believing and by loving the mysterious Infinite One who stirs within. This requires trust that something of great and saving importance is growing and kicking its heels in you.

The angel summoned Mary, betrothed to Joseph, from the rather safe place of conventional wisdom to a realm where few of the old rules would make much sense. She entered that unknown called "virgin territory." She was on her own there. No one else could judge for her the validity of her experience.

She can measure her reality against Scripture, the teachings of her tradition, her reason and intellect, and the counsel of wise friends. But finally it is up to her. The redemption of the creation is resting on the consent — the choice of this mortal woman to believe fearlessly that what she is experiencing is true. And to claim and live out that truth by conceiving the fruit of salvation.

Jesus observed, "Without me you can do nothing," (John 15:5). Yet we act, for the most part, as though without us God can do nothing. We think we have to make Christmas come, which is to say we think we have to bring about the redemption of the universe on our own. When all God needs is a willing womb, a place of safety, nourishment, and love. "Oh, but nothing will get done," you say. "If I don't do it, Christmas won't happen." And we crowd out Christ with our fretful fears.

God asks us to give away everything of ourselves. The gift of greatest efficacy and power that we can offer God and creation is not our skills, gifts, abilities, and possessions. The wise men had their gold, frankincense, and myrrh, Paul and Peter had their preaching. Mary offered only space, love, belief. What is it that delivers Christ into the world — preaching, art, writing, scholarship, social justice? Those are all gifts well worth sharing. But preachers lose their charisma, scholarship grows pedantic, social justice alone cannot save us. In the end, when all other human gifts have met their inevitable limitation, it is the recollected one, the bold virgin with a heart in love with God who makes a sanctuary of her life, who delivers Christ who then delivers us.

Try it. Leave behind your briefcase and notes and proof texts. Leave behind your honed skills and knowledge. Leave the Christmas decorations up in the attic. Go to someone in need and say, "Here, all I have is Christ." And find out that that is enough.

The intensity and strain that many of us bring to Christmas must suggest to some onlookers that, on the whole, Christians do not seem to have gotten the point of it. Probably few of us have the faith or the nerve to tamper with hallowed Christmas traditions on a large scale, or with our other holiday celebrations. But a small experiment might prove interesting. What if, instead of doing something, we were to be something special? Be a womb. Be a dwelling for God. Be surprised.

Loretta Ross-Gotta, Excerpt from *To Be Virgin*



# CHRISTMASTIDE

## OPENING PRAYER FOR CHRISTMASTIDE

God of love, all year long we pursue power and money, yet you come in weakness. All season long we covet great material gifts when you alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of this Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, and remake our lives, that we may witness to your transforming love. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## SURRENDER to the Presence of God

*Pause to be still, quiet yourself, and breathe slowly. Become aware that you are in the presence of the Holy.*

*God is near to you because He loves you.*

## LISTEN to the Scriptures

*As you read, remember the goal is not primarily information, but intimacy with God. Read the passage slowly, asking yourself first what the scripture says about God. Ask what the scripture says about God's heart for the people and world around you. Ask what the scripture says about God's heart towards you.*

*"For it is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself." - A.W. Tozer*

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF CHRISTMASTIDE

- Christmas Day: Luke 2:1-21
- Monday after Christmas: Psalm 3
- Tuesday after Christmas: Psalm 13
- Wednesday after Christmas: Psalm 14
- Thursday after Christmas: Psalm 18
- Friday after Christmas: Psalm 27
- Saturday after Christmas: Psalm 42
- Sunday after Christmas: Psalm 62
- 2nd Monday after Christmas: Psalm 95
- 2nd Tuesday after Christmas: Psalm 121
- 2nd Wednesday after Christmas: Psalm 138
- 2nd Thursday after Christmas: Matthew 3:1-12

## MEDITATE on the Scriptures

*Becoming aware of God's presence again, revisit the passage once more. Reflect on what the passage reveals about God and God's heart. Sit with and dwell on any words or phrases that jump out.*



# CHRISTMASTIDE

## RESPOND in Prayer

*Talk to God about your reflections, whether it's awe or frustration, gratefulness or anger, be honest with God. The goal is to simply respond to anything God, through His Word, has revealed to you.*

## CLOSING PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF CHRISTMASTIDE

Lord of Love, Hope, Joy and Peace  
We celebrate your first arrival in the manger  
and long for Your second coming.  
Reorder our loves, O Lord.  
We open ourselves to You —  
help us in opening ourselves to You.  
Lord, may Your desires become ours,  
fill us with Your gifts of Love, Hope, Joy and Peace  
that they may overflow into others. Amen