



Devotional Guide for December 21-27, 2020

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

Monday, Dec. 21ST “I will be their God; they will be My people”

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34 NIV

Jeremiah prophesies that God will make a new covenant with His people. As the making of the old covenant followed the redemption from Egypt, so the making of this new covenant will follow the redemption from sins. The new covenant will stand in contrast to the old covenant in that the new covenant cannot be broken as the old one had been. The guarantee that it will not be broken is the grace mediated by Christ through His death and resurrection. The new covenant will make good the deficiencies of the old, which lay in the people's inability to keep it.

Question: Do you see the two-fold part of this covenant: you and God?

Tuesday, Dec. 22ND “The Light shines in the darkness”

Scripture: John 1:1-18 NIV

We have been looking at this chapter in John's gospel a lot through the season of Advent. This prologue to the gospel draws the reader in and introduces themes like life, witness, children, glory, truth and grace. Verses 5 and 9 speak of the light shining in our world, also showing that at both the Creation and the coming of the Word, the Light prevailed and darkness has not overcome/understood it.

Question: Why are there so many lights used as decorations this season?

Wednesday, Dec. 23RD “The time came for the baby to be born”

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 NIV

Luke, as a physician, gives great details about the birth of Jesus Christ. We encounter details like the need for a census for Caesar Augustus, the long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the soon-to-be arrival of the baby at such an ill-opportune time, the placing of the baby in a manger (indicating that the birth took place in a stable), alluding to a full inn. Even the detail of wrapping Jesus in cloths would find its importance as the shepherds are told to look for that detail (a baby wrapping in swaddling cloths). What an incredible story!

Question: What is your favorite part of the nativity story of Jesus' birth?

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24TH “A Savior has been born!”

Scripture: Luke 2:8:14 NIV

Animals to be used for the temple sacrifices (mostly lambs) were kept out in the open, even in winter. Shepherds were a despised class since their work prevented them from keeping ceremonial laws of cleanliness. They were considered unreliable and weren't allowed even to give evidence in the courts. Yet these are the first people told of the birth of Jesus Christ! Jesus is called 'Savior' only twice in the four gospels (here and John 4:42). 'Christ' means 'Messiah,' which would put the emphasis on the importance of this birth. Add to the oddity of shepherds receiving such good news, the 'heavenly host' symbolizes the image of God's warrior angels... an odd group to deliver the news of the peace with God that Christ would bring.

Question: How did you first hear the good news of Jesus' birth?

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Our worship service for Christmas Eve will be available all day and all evening for you to enjoy with family and friends.

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20 and John 1:14-18

Pastor's message: "The Never-Ending Gift"

Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25TH “They spread the word”

Scripture: Luke 2:15-20 NIV

In that era, if anyone had asked if there was anyone more important than the emperor Caesar, the answer surely would have been no. Yet it is the birth of a little boy in a rural Judean village that causes the angels to launch into praise. The testimony to Jesus' birth from the angelic host to shepherds is significant in scope. Creation has no more mysterious and exalted beings than angels, who represent the testimony of the heavens to what is occurring. Moreover, there are no more "normal Joes" in that culture than shepherds, representing the lowly and humble who respond to God's message. But this story is only the beginning of God's new work—you and I are a part of the ongoing story of God's grace and hope for our world!

Question: Can you keep living the story of Christ beyond this season?

Sunday, December 27TH
Christmastide Sunday
Worship @10:45 Livestream only
via the church's Facebook page
or a link on our website at
greensburgfirst.org

Jeremiah 31:31-34 NIV, **Luke 2:15-20** NIV

Pastor's message: "The Day After..."

Worship theme: "Socks and Underwear!"

