



All who  
*have this*  
**hope**  
*in Him*

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PURIFY THEMSELVES

A DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR ADVENT

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REV. CHERYL A. LINDSAY

## PEACE AND GRACE TO YOU!

Advent is a season to reflect, remember and anticipate. During this time, we remember the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We anticipate the time when He will come again. And, we reflect on the meaning of His coming, past and future, in our lives.

The Advent Calendar begins four Sundays before Christmas, which falls on November 27 this year. Our focus text for the season is the First Letter of John. The call to discipleship is a call to growing deeper in Christ and like Christ. Therefore, “all who have this hope in Him purify themselves.” In other words, the writer emphasizes that the hope we find in Christ should manifest itself in how we live our lives in relation to God and to one another. The gospel is lived. We not only “tell it on the mountain,” we show it in the workplace, the grocery store, and in rush hour traffic. That is a challenging task for all of us, but it is made immeasurably easier when we begin each day devoting it and ourselves to the Lord. In truth, that is the only way we can purify ourselves – by relying on God to do the work in us and having a receptive heart and spirit.

I pray that you will use this devotional guide to help you reflect and to draw nearer to God during this season when so many distractions vie for our attention. This year, I have added further explanation and prompts to help you in prayer, including opening prayers based on scripture, psalms of rejoicing, and a place to record your prayer list. Each day, you will be given a song (that may be found on YouTube), a Scripture passage, and a reflective thought within each devotion. Everything else comes from your own prayerful reflection and the Holy Spirit. And while I provide a directed devotional, feel free to move as the Lord leads. If there is another passage of scripture that speaks to you, by all means, reflect and respond to that message.

You may complete this devotional time in 10 minutes or an hour—it’s up to you! On the next page, you will find a summary of what each step means and intends to accomplish. My prayer is that each day you will rest in God’s love!

In Christ,

*Rev. Cheryl*

# *The Steps*

## REJOICE IN THE *Lord*:

Begin your devotional time in prayer and worship. Say a prayer to ask the Holy Spirit to enter your heart and mind with insight and revelation. Here you will be given a song (all accessible through [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)), but if God puts another song on your heart, feel free to move in the Spirit!

## REACH FOR THE *goal* TO WIN THE *prize*:

Before moving on, note what you want or need God to do in your life. This might be to deepen your relationship with God, a new job, restored relationships or to develop more generosity or patience. Whatever you're seeking from God, record it here. We know, of course, that the Lord is the ultimate prize!

## REMOVE THE *garbage*:

We can be so distracted in our busy lives that it's important to remember that God should be our priority every day. Setting aside time to do this devotional is a step in the right direction, but we also need to confess what keeps us from reaching that goal we just named above. List that here. It may be as short as one word or as long as a paragraph.

## REFLECT:

Take a moment to note what God has already revealed to you through reflection.

## RENEW YOUR *spirit*:

Here you will be given a Scripture passage to read and reflect upon.

## RESPOND:

Take a moment to respond to what God has now revealed to you through Scripture.

## REST IN *God's love*:

Here you will be given a reflective thought to end your devotional time.

## *Opening Prayers*

The Psalmists prayed, and we benefit greatly from those prayers. The following scriptures may be used as prayers as written or as examples to shape our prayers. The blank space on these two pages allows you to record your thoughts and reflections on these passages as well.

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### **Psalm 5:1-3 NRSV**

*Give ear to my words, O LORD;  
give heed to my sighing.  
Listen to the sound of my cry,  
my King and my God,  
for to you I pray.  
O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice;  
in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.*

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### **Psalm 16:7-11 NLT**

I will bless the LORD who guides me;  
even at night my heart instructs me.  
I know the LORD is always with me.  
I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.  
No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.  
My body rests in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead  
or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.  
You will show me the way of life,  
granting me the joy of your presence  
and the pleasures of living with you forever.

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### **Psalm 17:6-8 CEB**

I cry out to you because you answer me.	who take refuge in you, saving them from their attackers by your strong hand.
So tilt your ears toward me now— listen to what I'm saying!	8 Watch me with the very pupil of your eye!
7 Manifest your faithful love in amazing ways because you are the one who saves those	Hide me in the protection of your wings,

**Psalm 19:14 CEB**

Let the words of my mouth  
and the meditations of my heart  
be pleasing to you,  
LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

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**Psalm 42:1-2 NLT**

As the deer longs for streams of water,  
so I long for you, O God.  
I thirst for God, the living God.  
When can I go and stand before him?

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Write your own opening prayer.

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## *Psalms of Rejoicing*

The Lord is worthy of our praise, but sometimes we struggle with the words. The following scriptures help us as we **REJOICE** in the Lord.

### **Psalm 9:1-2 NRSV**

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;  
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.  
I will be glad and exult in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*

### **Psalm 7:17 NASB**

*I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness  
And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.*

### **Psalm 9:1-2 NLT**

*I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done.  
I will be filled with joy because of you.  
I will sing praises to your name, O Most High.*

### **Psalm 18:46 CEB**

*The LORD lives! Bless God, my rock!  
Let the God of my salvation be lifted high!*

### **Psalm 28:6-7 ESV**

*Blessed be the LORD!  
For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.  
The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;  
my heart exults,  
and with my song I give thanks to him.*



Sunday, November 27, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
- Psalm 27:1 NRSV*

"God Has Smiled On Me" (Jessica Reedy)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Monday, November 28, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
- Psalm 27:1 NRSV*

"Walk in the Light" (Hezekiah Walker)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Tuesday, November 29, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
- Psalm 27:1 NRSV*

"Here I Am to Worship" (Israel and New Breed)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Wednesday, November 30, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?*

*The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?*

*- Psalm 27:1 NRSV*

"Jesus is the Light" (Florida Mass Choir)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Thursday, December 1, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
- Psalm 27:1 NRSV*

"Create in Me A Clean Heart" (Donnie McCLurkin)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Friday, December 2, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?*

*The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?*

*- Psalm 27:1 NRSV*

"Be Still" (Yolanda Adams)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Saturday, December 3, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
- Psalm 27:1 NRSV*

"Thou Art a Shield for Me" (Byron Cage)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Sunday, December 4, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
- Psalm 46:1 NRSV*

"Walk With Me" (Vanessa Bell Armstrong)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Monday, December 5, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
- Psalm 46:1 NRSV*

"Awesome" (Charles Jenkins)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Tuesday, December 6, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
- Psalm 46:1 NRSV*

"Glory and Honor" (Chicago Mass Choir)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Wednesday, December 7, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
- Psalm 46:1 NRSV*

"Close to You" (Youthful Praise)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Thursday, December 8, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
- Psalm 46:1 NRSV*

"Lord I Love You" (Eddie Baltrip)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Friday, December 9, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
- Psalm 46:1 NRSV*

"You Are God Alone" (Marvin Sapp)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Saturday, December 10, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
- Psalm 46:1 NRSV*

"Thank You for Being God" (Travis Greene)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Sunday, December 11, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
- Psalm 34:1-2 NRSV*

"Your Name" (Vashawn Mitchell)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Monday, December 12, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
- Psalm 34:1-2 NRSV*

"The Same" (Anthony Brown and group therAPy)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Tuesday, December 13, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
- Psalm 34:1-2 NRSV*

"Psalm 23" (Juanita Bynum)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Wednesday, December 14, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
- Psalm 34:1-2 NRSV*

"You Are God" (Michael Dotson)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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***The Lord is my treasure.***

Thursday, December 15, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

*My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.*

*- Psalm 34:1-2 NRSV*

"Restore Me" (Anthony Evans)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Friday, December 16, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
- Psalm 34:1-2 NRSV*

"Can't Stop Praising His Name" (Keith Pringle)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Saturday, December 17, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
- Psalm 34:1-2 NRSV*

"Lord You're Mighty" (Youthful Praise)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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*The glory of the Lord is majestic.*

Sunday, December 18, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all.*

"Our God" (Micah Stampley)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Monday, December 19, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all.*

"Hallelujah, Salvation and Glory" (Stephen Hurd)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Tuesday, December 20, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all.*

"Make Me New" (Mali Music)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Wednesday, December 21, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all.*

"Overflow" Bryan Andrew Wilson

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Thursday, December 22, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all.*

"Great is Your Mercy" (Donnie McClurkin)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Friday, December 23, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all.*

"I Really Love the Lord" (Fellowship Chorale)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Saturday, December 24, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all.*

"Bow Down and Worship Him" (Bishop Paul S. Morton)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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Sunday, December 25, 2016

REJOICE in the *Lord*

*O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.  
O that today you would listen to his voice!*  
- Psalm 95:6-7 NRSV

"O Come O Come Emmanuel" (Howard Gospel Choir)

REACH for the *goal* to win the *prize*

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*Connect with me*

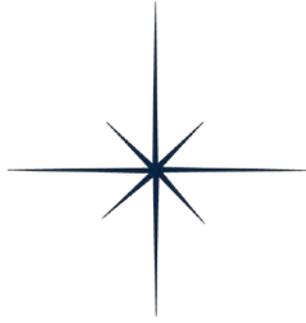
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Inspiration. Resources. Connection.

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**Now to Him**  
*who is able to do*  
**exceedingly, abundantly**  
*above all we can ask or think,*  
according to the power  
that works in us,  
**TO HIM BE THE GLORY**  
in the church  
*by Christ Jesus*  
**to all generations,**  
*forever and ever.*  
Amen.

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EPHESIANS 3:20-21 NKJV