



advent

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Dear Friend,

It's that time of year when we often gather together to celebrate and share special moments of the season. It's also a time of anticipation and waiting. Waiting for Christmas Day and the coming of Jesus to our world.

In John 10:10* Jesus says, **“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”**

What a Saviour! What a promise! The kind of life Jesus offers to each of us is full of hope, peace, joy and love. We look forward to spending a few quiet moments with you this Advent season as we reflect on these themes together.

Gather with us daily, weekly or even just occasionally over the next few weeks to celebrate the gift of Scripture. Experience moments of calm and connection as we wait for Jesus. Stay a little longer to ponder a reflection question or share hope, peace, joy and love with others.



Waiting with you,

Anna

Prayer and Communications Strategist
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**All Scripture is NIV unless otherwise noted*

love



Fourth Sunday
of Advent

Love is humbling. It requires giving and receiving and sacrifice and blessing. The greatest poets and painters in the world have tried to capture their vision of love on paper and canvas, but words and symbols can't fully express it.

It is the “greatest of these” (1 Corinthians 13:13) and it is the first word in both of the Great Commandments (Matthew 22:37&39). There is no higher calling than to love—God and others.

In its simplest form, love is the gospel message. This is how Jesus lived His life. Love was His reason for everything He was and everything He did.

The wait is almost over. He has almost arrived.

Let's pray together:

Lord, the day we have been waiting for is almost here. Thank you for the experiences, conversations, celebrations and quiet moments of the past few weeks of Advent. This day is yours, as is every day, and we give it to you and ask that Your will be done—now and always—as we seek to let love reign in our hearts and our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Ponder this week:

What are the greatest loves in your life? How is it easy for you to show love? How is it hard to show love? How does this perspective change when you think about receiving love from those who are close to you?

How could you share the love of Jesus with others over the Christmas holidays?



love ✨ **Sunday, December 21**

Verse

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. - 1 Corinthians 13:13

Reflect

Spend a few minutes thinking about the connections between faith, hope and love. How do you think they are connected? For you, does one of these lead to another?

Do you have a favourite song, poem, painting, quote or story that is focused on love? Consider gifting a copy to someone you love for Christmas.

✨ **Monday, December 22**

Verse

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. - 2 Corinthians 13:11

Reflect

This verse reminds us of the themes of Advent: hope, joy, love and peace. Do you see how encouragement is key to experiencing hope, joy, love and peace?

Do you wish you had more hope, joy, love or peace in a particular relationship? Share a word of encouragement with this person today.



love ✨ **Tuesday, December 23**

Verse

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ - Matthew 22:37-39

Reflect

The Great Commandments are all about love. All-encompassing love for God and selfless love for others. What a high calling! Yet we are not alone in striving to live this out. Jesus is always by our side, cheering us on, interceding on our behalf to the Father and anticipating the day when there will be no more waiting to be together with Him.

What do you think it means to love your neighbour as yourself? Identify one way you can show love to your neighbour this Christmas season.



love ✦ **Wednesday, December 24**

Verse

Do everything in love. - 1 Corinthians 16:14

Reflect

It's as simple as that! Love has to be the reason for everything we do and everything we are in our lives. At least, we need to ask God for help in keeping our focus on love on a daily basis. Shifting our habits and goals and relationships to let love guide them is a moment-by-moment adventure.

Name one habit, goal or relationship in your life that is causing you pain or frustration. "Gift" it to Jesus for His healing and renewal. Just as we have been waiting for Him, He also waits for us to turn to Him, focus on Him and love Him all the more.



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In John 10:10 Jesus says, **“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”**

Thank you for joining us in waiting and focusing on Hope, Peace, Joy and Love this Advent season.

Our hope is that your gatherings and celebrations during the past weeks showed you glimpses of the “full life” Jesus offers to each one of us.

Did you find some quiet moments amidst the busyness?

Was your heart calmed and refreshed by spending a few moments with this devotional?

We’d love to hear from you at intercede@wycliffe.ca.

If you haven’t already, please [share with us](#) a favourite Bible verse. We’ll highlight a few of them in future Wycliffe Canada publications!



Celebrating with you,

Anna

Prayer and Communications Strategist
Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada

Share a verse with us.



Scan the QR code,
or click this [link!](#)