

2025

Let
HEAVEN AND
NATURE SING

Season of the Nativity Devotional

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

week 1

Hello!

Welcome to the first week of our Season of the Nativity
Devotional: *Let Heaven and Nature Sing*.

In this holy season, we imagine ourselves joining heaven and nature as they worship in hopeful expectation of Christ's return, when everything will be made new. Worship, however, is not just confined to singing or going to a church service. Indeed, because of the gifts of Christ, worship becomes our primary vocation. Our whole lives become living sacrifices.

We also know this season as Advent. Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming"—a reminder that we wait not in idleness, but with anticipation and longing.

This time of year is busy, of course; life always seems to be speeding up. Instead of being swept up in the rush, we invite you to pause, to reflect, and to consider how you might join the song that is already rising all around us.

Let heaven and nature sing!



“Born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us
forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.”

*Charles Wesley, Come Thou Long
Expected Jesus*

Monday, December 1

*“It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of
the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be
lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it” -Isaiah 2:2*

Both singularity and purity of heart are considered some of the highest
ideals in the Bible. Our hearts, however, can become quite crowded, like a
busy, bustling inn. Some guests stay one night, while others stay for weeks
at a time.

Take a few breaths and examine for a moment what you could set aside
this day so that your life can be more fully captivated by the coming King,
Jesus our Lord. What might you let go of to be part of the nations flowing
to God’s Kingdom?

On the lines below, write what you intend to set aside this day:

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Tuesday, December 2

“He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” -Isaiah 2:4

Each one of us has a set of values that governs our lives. Some of the deepest troubles in life come, however, when our values are not aligned with the future that Jesus is forging.

Many things in our world are antithetical to Jesus’ divine nature and Kingdom.

Consider for a few moments the values highlighted in Isaiah 2:6. How might you anticipate and join in the way of peace and transformation set forth by the reign of Jesus today?

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Wednesday, December 3

“And all who have this hope in him purify themselves even as he is pure.” -1 John 3:3

Hope may be one of the most underrated postures of our time, yet it changes everything. At the heart of our hope in this Season of the Nativity is not our own capacity to hope, but the person of Jesus in whom we place that hope. And when our hope rests in Jesus through faith, it is secure.

John Wesley writes in *The Scripture Way of Salvation*,
“For were you disappointed of your Hope, still you lose nothing. But it shall not be disappointed of your Hope: it will come, and will not tarry. Look for it then every Day, every Hour, every Moment. Why not this Hour, this moment? Certainly may look for it now. If you believe it is by faith.”

Write down a few things that are making it difficult to have hope today. Bring those before God in prayer.

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Thursday, December 4

“Therefore, once you have your minds ready for action and you are thinking clearly, place your hope completely on the grace that will be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed.” -1 Peter 1:13

“The source of our hope is a consequential matter. We sometimes find ourselves believing in God but not acting like it. This is called functional atheism. It is the belief that everything rests on me and my actions. We might go to church, read scripture, and sing songs about God’s power. But then we stress, over-function, and burn out. We place our hope in God, but only in part. Peter reminds us to rely on Jesus—on grace—as our source of complete hope, trusting that God is worthy, not only of our partial faith but all of it.” -Adapted quote by Matt Miofsky, *Methodist Book of Daily Prayer*

On the lines below, notice what daily actions you commonly make that might suggest your belief in God is partial. In prayer, ask God to show you a better way.

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Friday, December 5

“Yet I will hope continually and will praise you more and more.” -Psalm 71:14

Having a continuous posture of hope seems daunting. After all, so much seems to steal our hope. But having hope doesn’t mean we ignore the reality of how things are. Instead, hope means we act in ways that foreshadow Jesus’ coming kingdom. The world might be prone to violence, but what if you planted seeds of peace today? Many in the world are lonely today. Who might you befriend or spend time with?

On the lines below, write out a few ways you can participate in actions that are rooted in your continual hope.

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“Lord, show us favor; we hope in you. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in times of distress.” -Isaiah 33:2

Christmas trees and Christmas lights signify something important: despite the dark, cold nights of late fall and early winter, God is an ever-present, always-good reality. The world changes, but Jesus remains a constant. Today, the Holy Spirit can strengthen, inspire, and carry us through in times of difficulty.

Below, write some of the ways you have noticed God’s good and faithful presence in your life

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We'd love to worship with you this season.

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m. — Chapel

11:00 a.m. — Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m. — Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. — Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. — Chapel

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