

2025



# *Let* HEAVEN AND NATURE SING

Season of the Nativity Devotional

**Week 3**

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church



*Hello!*

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

In this holy season, we join 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 worship service. Indeed, because of the gifts of Christ, worship becomes our primary vocation. We 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!





*“O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze”  
John F. Wade, ca 1743;  
translated by Frederick Oakeley*

Monday, December 15

*“Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” -Psalm 95:6*

A central theme of worship in scripture is adoration. In the beloved Christmas hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, we are invited to come and adore Christ the Lord. We may each express that adoration in our own way, but one thing is certain: Christ’s presence and grace spark joy and celebration.

On the lines below, take a moment to write about how you adore and celebrate Jesus’ presence in your life. Reflect on how Christ is a gift that never breaks, never wears out, and never becomes obsolete.

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Tuesday, December 16

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shone.  
You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;  
They rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.” -Isaiah 9:2-3*

Once, I had great difficulty driving home on a dark night. Suddenly, someone honked at me, and I realized I had been driving without my headlights on. Having an illuminated path makes all the difference. Living with God doesn’t mean we always know where we’re going or what lies around the corner, but it does mean our lives are filled with a steady, ever-present light and support.

On the lines below, write how you’ve seen God shine light into the dark times of your life recently. Where might you rely on God’s light more?

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Wednesday, December 17

*“As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy!”  
-Luke 1:44*

“The only condition for joy is the presence of God ... which means it can erupt in a depressed economy, in the middle of a war, or in an intensive care waiting room.” -Barbara Brown Taylor

Despite the decay and sadness we see in the world, we are still invited to cultivate an awareness of God’s presence. And when we notice that presence, it brings deep joy. On the lines below, write down some of the people and blessings in your life that you may be taking for granted. These people are things might just be signs of God’s loving presence.

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Thursday, December 18

*“They offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. The joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.” -Nehemiah 12:43*

“What is joy? Joy can never be induced, cranked up, or made to happen. It’s something that has to find us precisely within our ordinary, duty-bound, burdened, full-of-worries, and pressured lives ... and it makes you spontaneously exclaim: ‘God, it’s good to be alive!’” -Father Ron Rolheiser

In the midst of your daily life and routines, God offers you companionship. On the lines below, write a few ways you might spend today being more aware of God. Where could you include a few extra pauses for presence?

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Friday, December 19

*“When they saw the star, they were filled with joy.” -Matthew 2:10*

“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 our eyes.” -Frederick Buechner

The shepherds in the first Christmas story weren’t expecting their lives to be changed in the way they were. Just like then, God still acts and moves in our world today. Even when we are busy or focused on something else, God still shows up. On the lines below, write down a few things you will do—or have already done—today. How did, or how might, God show up in those moments?

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*“You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy. In your right hand are pleasures forever.”-Psalm 16:11*

We are all walking a life path—some of us still finding our footing, others moving along well-worn trails. During the Season of the Nativity, we’re invited to pause and reassess how we are living in light of the promise that Jesus’ return will one day make all things new. Because of that hope, we don’t wait passively; we begin living into those good things even now.

Take a moment to pray. Ask God to show you how you might live today a little differently than yesterday. Ask for the grace to be intentional—more attentive to God’s presence, more aligned with the future God is creating, and more willing to walk in the light that leads home.

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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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