



Songs and Poetry to Celebrate Jesus' Birth

An Advent Devotional



Drawings from boys and girls in World Vision project communities.



Our gift to you!

We hope you enjoy these devotionals for Advent that help you prepare for God's great gift—His own Son. And we hope you love the wonderful drawings created by children in World Vision communities! Each one was drawn with love.

*Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.*

Isaiah 40:1-2 (NIV)

A Child Is Born

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

Much (but not all) of the Book of Isaiah is written in poetry. We know many of its verses because they have been translated into song—most memorably in Handel’s Messiah. Isaiah has much to say about the coming of the Messiah. In this passage, we note at the beginning the honoring of Galilee, the home base of Jesus. The best-known messianic verses begin in verse 6, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (NIV)

Meditation: The One called Immanuel—“God with us” (Isaiah 7:14)—wants to turn our darkness into light, our conflict into peace, our loss into abundance, our despair into joy. That’s good news for all of us, for all eternity. Have we allowed the Child who is King to take over the government of our lives? Only then can we know the joy of “God with us.”

Artwork by
Emily at age 13



Zechariah's Song

Read Luke 1:67-79

Second Sunday of Advent December 5, 2021

Zechariah saw an angel and was struck dumb for months. When he finally spoke after his son John—the forerunner to the Messiah—was born, he was filled with the Holy Spirit and sang this prophetic song. His theme was the delivery of Israel from their enemies through the coming Messiah—and a prediction for John, that he will be a prophet who prepares the way for the Lord. He also praised God for fulfilling the promises he made to Abraham and to David. Like Isaiah, Zechariah emphasized the light that will shine on those living in darkness.

Meditation: Zechariah was a man of lifelong faith who still needed to grow. It is all too easy to view one's spiritual life as something that can be mastered rather than something to be maintained. During his months of silence he undoubtedly reflected on this. Are you tempted to rest on what you have already accomplished spiritually—or are you continuing to grow?

Artwork by
Lesley at age 11



Mary's Song

Read Luke 1:46-55

Third Sunday of Advent December 12, 2021

When the angel told Mary she would bear the Messiah, he also told her that her relative Elizabeth was miraculously pregnant in her old age. Mary ran to Elizabeth's house. Elizabeth and the baby in her womb greeted Mary and her unborn child. Then Mary expressed her joy with this song. She was amazed that a humble girl like her should be so blessed by her God. She continued to acclaim the mighty and merciful deeds of her Lord. She was grateful.

Meditation: When we reflect on who God is, humility is the natural result. God's attributes of love, mercy, and justice are not just to be admired and worshiped, they are to be experienced as well. How have you seen God work in the everyday affairs of your life? God owes us nothing, we owe Him everything.

Artwork by
Alejandra at age 14



Simeon's Poetic Prayer

Read Luke 2:25-35

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19, 2021

Simeon lived many years in expectation and never lost faith. When he saw the baby Jesus, he recognized God's Messiah. Many of us reading this prayer can be particularly grateful that the light Simeon called out was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." Yes, Jesus is the light of the whole world—Jewish and non-Jewish. For the past 2,000 years, Jesus has revealed the one, true God to Gentiles. And all eyes will be drawn to Israel through what Israel's Messiah achieves.

Meditation: Here is a man near the end of his life who still serves God wholeheartedly, even contentedly. He is open to whatever his God has for him—including death. What is Jesus asking from you? Recall how Jesus tells us that service to those in need is service to Jesus (Matthew 25:37-40). That is, if he were still here, Jesus would be ministering to the "least of these brothers and sisters of mine." But now we minister on his behalf. What an honor it is to be used for his glory!

Artwork by
Jennifer at age 15





Thank You

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