



The Porch
First Presbyterian Church
Trinity Church

Advent 2022

Anticipation and Reflection



Nov 27 <i>Worship together</i> Home Church	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30	Dec 1	Dec 2 Last day for the foster youth toy donation!	Dec 3
Dec 4 <i>Worship together</i> Home Church	Dec 5 RSVP to the Christmas Party!	Dec 6	Dec 7	Dec 8	Dec 9 <i>Celebrate Church Party</i> 7:00 PM	Dec 10
Dec 11 <i>Worship together</i> Meet at The Porch 10:30 AM	Dec 12 RSVP to watch football!	Dec 13 <i>Outreach</i> Caroling in the excelsior 6:30 PM	Dec 14	Dec 15 <i>Celebrate</i> Watch football together 5:00 PM	Dec 16 <i>Worship together</i> Lessons and Carols 7:00 PM	Dec 17
Dec 18 <i>Worship together</i> Meet at Trinity 10:30 AM	Dec 19	Dec 20	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 23	Dec 24
Dec 25/ Jan 1 <i>Worship together</i> Meet at First Pres 4:00 PM						

Plan ahead for in person events!

November 27

Day 1

Pastor Drew Yamamoto from Trinity Church found the perfect quote from author Hannah Anderson to kick off our Advent journey:

“Advent is a communal practice that we’re trying to do individually”.

This year Advent will be a time for our three churches to participate, yes, together at times but also together as individuals. As our three churches come together we will celebrate, share our time and resources, reflect, mourn, and anticipate.

Each day will have an activity that you can participate in, from Christmas sweater wearing to cookie baking. We encourage you to use these times to engage your neighbors, coworkers and family in meaningful ways, to share what Advent means to you.

On prayer days, we encourage you to consider the practice of fasting. Perhaps use your lunch hour to instead pray for our city, our churches, our families, and the people who are struggling with the tough emotions that this season can bring up.

May this season be an intentional time for all of us to reflect God’s glory here on earth as we anticipate his return.

Blessings,

The Porch, Trinity Church, and First Presbyterian Church

November 28

Day 2

What does Hope have to do with Advent?

A reflection from First Presbyterian Church's Natalie Mead:

I have a friend with an aggressive form of Parkinson's Disease and an unshakable love of bicycles. He's single, lives alone, and the doctors say he has five, maybe ten years left. But the other day, he told me that he's in the market for another bike to add to his collection. He wants to buy a tandem bike- a bicycle built for two.

When I asked him why, he said it's for him and his future girlfriend, who will also love cycling. He hasn't found her yet, but when he does, he wants to have a vintage bike ready for them to ride together, one that he's restored and tricked out himself.

Hope prepares for what is hoped for. My friend has hope he'll find a partner before he dies, so he prepares by buying a bicycle built for two. Advent is, similarly, a time of hopeful anticipation. It's an invitation to prepare our hearts for what is hoped for: Our Savior and King. Prepare the way of the LORD!

How much hope do you have that God will show up in your life this Advent season? Do you have hope enough to prepare your heart for His coming? I know I don't. Sometimes, I have barely enough hope to get myself out of bed.

So if you're like me, and your hope is running low, start by asking God to give you hope in Christ today. He is sure to prepare your heart for His coming, just as He is sure to come.

November 29

Day 3

Participate in The Porch's annual Advent activity by donating a toy or gift card to Family Builder's Foster Youth Gift Drive!

November is Adoption Awareness Month and this season is incredibly difficult for our city's foster youth. Take some time to pray for them, their foster families, their bio families, our social workers, case workers, and policy makers. May the church be a shining example of love and care to these kids both in word and deed.

The deadline to donate is December 2nd, so do it today!

See the request list and donate at:

[DreamList.com/for/fbholiday2022](https://dreamlist.com/for/fbholiday2022)

or

Mail/drop off a gift to family builders offices at:

1900 Embarcadero #303, Oakland, CA 94606

November 30

Day 4

Feel encouraged to fast today as you dedicate this time to anticipating how God will answer our prayers.

Use these prayers written by Trinity Church's Daniel Walentowski and Lupe Yaranga to guide your prayer time:

Let us give praise with a grateful heart to our Eternal Father for His goodness, grace and mercy through Christ Jesus who died on the cross at Calvary, for all of our iniquities. We pray for our loved ones and all in this world that do not know Jesus, that they would repent and surrender their lives to Him.

Father of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we pray for your church, that those who are blind shall see, those who do not know shall hear and understand your truths as your Spirit first made things known.

Your Spirit gave life to Christ Jesus, Emmanuel [God with us], Coram Deo [the incarnate face of God], Pleroma [in the fullness of time]. Despite our problems, difficulties and circumstances in our lives, we recognize Your sovereignty, majesty and tender care for us, which is why we can live confidently, because You are working in our lives to fulfill Your perfect purposes. Help us to hear the Holy Spirit, that we would grow in the truth of your Word.

We ask for healing in our bodies, for all who are sick and suffering and in great need, we pray for the peace of Christ to reign in the hearts and minds of Your creation, that we would not be conformed by this world but transformed by the renewing of our mind as stated in Your Holy Scripture, letting go of the things that prevent and hinder us from truly knowing You.

Just as those waited, who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word, and delivered to us concerning the things You have taught, their vision is yet for an appointed time but at the end it will speak and it will not lie, it will not tarry. We will wait for it because it will surely come in Your perfect time.

We pray for those who are lonely and feeling unloved, we ask that you would bring joy and peace into their lives with Your eternal love. We pray for the peace of Christ to rain in the hearts and minds of everyone, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name that all the nations will cry out to Christ Jesus.

Let it be so, according to Your word. Father, thank you because you love us so much that you have given your only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. And now we join the choir of angels saying: Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and goodwill to mankind.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Isaiah 9

Habakkuk 2

Luke 1 & 2

Romans 1 & 12:2

Colossians 2:8

Amen.

December 1

Day 5

Read and reflect using the questions written by Trinity Church's Laura Foust.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

- John has harsh words for the religious leaders- repent! What fruit is the fruit of repentance? How is that good fruit present in your life?
 - While we can approach Jesus boldly because of the cross, do we also approach with John's humility, "Whose sandals I am not worthy to carry"?
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December 2

Day 6

Take some time to watch a Christmas movie together! Who can you invite over to share in this time?

Offer this:

Our church is celebrating advent together and we are supposed to watch a christmas movie tonight. Would you like to join me/our family at our house tonight? We have movie snacks!

December 3

Day 1

Plan for the coming holiday weeks, Reflect on what matters most. Find hope in this season and what it can mean. Use the space below to journal your reflections so you can look back over them later. Relax and enjoy some cocoa or a cocktail.

Christmas Maple Bourbon Sour (John Grogg, Porch)

A subtle holiday twist on the classic whiskey sour

Ingredients

2 oz bourbon
1 oz maple syrup
1 oz fresh lemon juice
3 dashes cardamom bitters
Garnish: lemon peel and cinnamon stick

Directions:

In an ice-filled cocktail shaker, combine all ingredients. Shake well; strain over a large ice cube into a rocks glass. Express lemon peel over rim and top with a cinnamon stick.

December 4

Day 8

Worship together at your home church today. We will light the second candle of advent representing peace today.

Prepare:

The next four following Sundays we will be meeting at each other's churches. Pay special attention to where we are meeting!

You can use this page to take notes of the sermon or spend time reflecting post service.

December 5

Day 9

Don't forget to RSVP to the Christmas Party today! (See December 9th!)

What does Peace have to do with Advent?

A reflection from First Presbyterian Church's Natalie Mead:

Not long after the angels declared "Peace on earth," Mary and Joseph were on the run with their son to hide in Egypt, and all the baby boys in Bethlehem were brutally murdered because of the Christ child. Fast forward two thousand years, and not much has changed. Where is this "peace on earth"?

I recently discovered a quote from Alexander Maclaren that completely transformed my understanding of peace:

"Divine peace...is to be enjoyed in the midst of warfare. Quiet is not quiescence. God's peace is not torpor. The man that has it has still to wage continual conflict, and day by day to brace himself anew for the fight. The highest energy of action is the result of the deepest calm of heart."

One day, Jesus will bring complete, global peace. Every warrior's boot and every garment rolled in blood will be burned in the fire. This will happen at His second coming. But! The peace that Christ brought with His first coming, the peace that is available for us here and now, is peace between us and God. This peace brings our twisted, rebellious hearts into good and right relationship with our perfect, blameless Father.

We once were enemies of God, but now we're on His side, enlisted in His service, and wearing his armor. This peace can be enjoyed even when chaos rages all around. It protects us through every earthly battle and gives us strength to fight against Satan's schemes. And, unlike our treaties and promises, God's peace with us, through Christ, will never come to an end.

December 6

Day 10

Invite someone over to bake cookies together.

Suggested wording:

We are celebrating advent together as a church. Today we are baking cookies. Would you like to come over and bake with us? We have new recipes we can try suggested by people in our church!

Recipe suggested by The Porch's Kathy Palmer:

Auntie Carrie's Date Bars

Ingredients

3 Eggs, well beaten
¼ cup Butter, melted
1 cup Sugar
1 cup Flour
1 cup Dates, chopped
1 cup Walnuts, chopped (Optional)
½ tsp Baking powder
Pinch Salt
Powdered Sugar (for coating)

Directions

Mix in order given, spread in a lined pan. Bake 20 minutes at 350. Cut in squares and roll in powdered sugar.

Recipe suggested by Trinity Church's Faith and Joe Paull:

Brown Butter Salted Caramel Snickerdoodles (By Alyssa Rivers)

2 1/2 cup	all-purpose flour	1 cup	unsalted butter
1 tsp	baking soda	1 1/4 cup	dark brown sugar
2 tsp	cream of tartar	1/2 cup	granulated sugar
1/2 tsp	ground cinnamon	1	large egg + one yolk
1/2 tsp	sea salt	1 tbsp	vanilla extract
		1 tbsp	plain Greek yogurt
1 cup	caramel squares cut into 1/4's		
1/4 cup	granulated sugar		
2 tsp	ground cinnamon		
	Coarse Sea salt for sprinkling		

Directions

In a medium sized bowl, mix first five dry ingredients and set aside. Brown butter in a saucepan over medium heat until you start to smell a nutty aroma and it turns to a brown color. Cool.

Cream the brown butter, brown sugar, and 1/2 cup granulated sugar.

Beat in egg, yolk, vanilla and yogurt and mix until combined.

Slowly add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture until combined.

Form the dough into a ball and cover with plastic. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes or overnight.

To bake, preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Measure about 2 tablespoons of dough and roll into a ball. Flatten the ball and place 1-2 caramel squares inside, wrap the cookie dough over the caramel and roll back into a ball. Make sure it is completely covered so that the caramel won't stick to the pan.

Mix 1/4 cup sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl and roll each cookie in the mixture. Place cookies on a parchment lined cookie sheet 2 inches apart. Sprinkle lightly with sea salt.

Bake for 8-10 minutes, or until the edges turn lightly brown. Allow to cool for 2-3 minutes, and transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

December 7

Day 11

Take your neighbor some cookies!

For an easy way to engage your neighbors about your faith, let them know that you are participating in Advent and today everyone is sharing homemade treats with their neighbors. Check in with them to see how they are doing this season. Include a card to invite them to join us for our joint services.

December 8

Day 12

Read and reflect using the questions provided by First Presbyterian Church's Pastor Chris Robins.

Matthew 11:2-11

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

- One of the surprises in the Bible is how honest it is about its heroes, and this story reveals John has doubts. What do you imagine he might be thinking and feeling for him to ask Jesus the question he does? What would you ask?
 - John's doubts in prison are real. What do you notice about how Jesus responds to these questions? How would you describe Jesus' attitude?
 - Jesus praises John, a bit of a celebrity in his day, but then flips the praise on its head, saying the least in God's kingdom is more of a superstar than John the Baptist! How can that happen? Why is that possible in the kingdom that comes with Jesus?
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December 9

Day 13

Put on your festive duds and join us for a Christmas Party at First Presbyterian's Chris and Thao Robin's house from 7-11 PM.

Please RSVP by December 5th!

See local church updates for RSVP details and information or RSVP here:

<https://www.paperlesspost.com/go/v82P33XHjM4qyXHRo7601>

December 10

Day 14

Use these prayers written by Trinity Church's Laura Foust to guide your prayer time today. You are encouraged to fast today as you set aside time to pray.

Mourning and lament is an appropriate response to Advent. If you are not feeling the cheer this season, you are not alone, nor is it inappropriate to grieve.

Let us join together in prayer, thanking our father for knowing exactly where and who we are, and yet loving us beyond our comprehension. We acknowledge his goodness, his grace and his mercy in our lives and come humbly before him. We ask for his healing in our physical bodies for those who are experiencing health problems. We pray for protection from Covid, common flu and colds, rsv and other health issues.

We pray for those who are feeling lonely and unloved during this holiday season and we ask that you would bring joy, love and friendship into their lives. We pray that they feel the father's love for them. We pray for The peace of Christ to reign in our hearts and minds this holiday. We pray for those experiencing grief. We name them now. We thank you for bringing comfort to them at this very moment.

Take a moment now to pray in your own words for your family, the people you have been engaging with for advent, and the family builder's foster youth that we are buying toys for. Pray for First Pres, The Porch and Trinity, and for anyone you have a broken relationship with.

Father, continue to be faithful to us, as you have throughout the ages. Give us hearts for those around us.

Together we ask for God to be glorified in all things. Amen.

December 11

Day 15

Don't forget to RSVP to watch football with Pastor Jon and family! (See December 15th for details.)

Our first joint advent service is held at The Porch! Join together to worship at 10:30 AM at 1524 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94133

You can use this page to take notes of the sermon or spend time reflecting post service.

December 12

Day 16

What does Joy have to do with Advent?

A reflection from First Presbyterian Church's Natalie Mead:

I am not normally a very joyful person. So when I volunteered to write these Advent reflections, I wasn't sure what I'd say about joy, but figured I could come up with something generic. Since that time, I developed another mystery medical problem that's swallowed me whole. Everything feels shrouded in thick darkness right now, and joy seems too far out of reach to write about.

Christmas is all about joy. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! But before that, generations of God's people lived and died without seeing the Savior who God promised way back in the Garden of Eden. Many lived and died as slaves, exiles, or subjects of nations like Persia and Rome. Joy was promised, but out of reach, for thousands of years.

In the same way, Jesus experienced the joy of resurrection. But before that, he lived, suffered, and died, completely forsaken by God.

Christmas is all about joy, but Advent is not. Advent is about the waiting, the longing, the living in sorrow. So out of all the seasons on the Church calendar, I think I get Advent the most. I know what it's like to grieve, I know what it's like to wait, and I especially know what it's like to grow impatient with God's timing.

But every year, Advent ends, and Christmas comes. In the same way, our waiting will end, and our joy will come. So if you feel joyless like I do during Advent this year, don't muster up artificial joy just in time for December 25th. Instead, use Christmas as a time to remember this promise: Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning. And pray while you wait: *God, quickly bring the morning!*

December 13

Day 17

Trinity Church has a long tradition of passing out coffee to our neighbors, as you may have experienced yourself on a Sunday morning while visiting Trinity.

We plan to continue that tradition with caroling this year!

Join Trinity Church's Tuesday spiritual formation group as we head into the neighborhood to pass out hot cider and sing carols led by SJ Sanchez. The more people the merrier!

We will have signs letting our neighbors know that they are loved (Much like the movie scene in Love Actually) and we will hand out invitations to our advent services. We will wrap with hot cider and snacks at Brian Foust's office in the excelsior.

Meet at 6:30 at 4804 mission street.

December 14

Day 18

Buy someone a cup of coffee!

Let them know you are participating in Advent with your church and you want to grab them a cup of coffee. Be open to inviting them to a service. Take an opportunity to be bold with your testimony. Our faith is GOOD news! God faithfully meets us and we can be confident as his children in sharing his love for us.

December 15

Day 19

Join The Porch's Pastor Jon Brackett and family in watching a Niners game!

Relax and enjoy time building a community of friends.

5 PM, Nob Hill, Pizza and snacks provided.

RSVP required - <https://forms.gle/KXwnHiZGoQ8Uksh0A>

December 16

Day 20

Join together in person, Friday, December 16 at 7:00pm at Dolores Park Church for a Lessons and Carols gathering.

Kala Grogg from The Porch provides us some context:

This advent tradition has been observed since the late 19th century, most notably at King's College, Cambridge, wherein the gospel story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in Bible readings interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and hymns.

December 17

Day 21

Read and reflect on the following questions written by Trinity Church's Scott Peng.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- Consider Joseph's marriage did not begin as he planned. How do we react or respond to circumstances in our life that don't go our way?
 - How can we see where God is moving in those circumstances when our earthly self doesn't believe it?
 - Just as God gave instructions to Joseph, how is God calling you to obey and follow him in this season?
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December 18

Day 22

Today's service will be held at Trinity Church at 10:30 at the Italian American Social Club, 25 Russia Street in the Excelsior.

Parking is tight, come a little early for a cup of coffee and stay after to socialize with our Angel Tree Families!

Angel Tree allows us to partner with incarcerated parents to provide gifts to their children. The families are invited to join us for the service and stay for a sweet treat after.

December 19

Day 23

What does Love have to do with Advent? A reflection from First Presbyterian Church's Natalie Mead:

I struggle daily to believe that God loves me. And yes, I know how inconsistent this struggle is with my faith. How can I believe that Christ gave himself up for me and yet simultaneously doubt God's love? I think it's because I imagine God's love as purely emotion, or an invisible force. When I pray for God to help me know His love, I'm expecting Him to answer by giving me a warm and fuzzy feeling, or at least some internal sense of comfort.

This past year was painful for me, and I mean that very literally. In January, I experienced a major relapse in my chronic migraines, and more recently, I've developed a second source of daily, debilitating pain. So 2022 has involved a lot of crying out to God in anguish, desperately wanting to know His love amidst the mess that is my life. And I've often gotten frustrated, because He wasn't giving me the warm fuzzies, the feeling of love that I wanted.

But God actually did answer my prayers to know His love this year, despite my numerous complaints to the contrary. How did He do it? In the past week, which was a particularly difficult one, God delivered to my doorstep seven home-cooked meals (each of which adhered to a long list of dietary restrictions), a week's worth of groceries, two loads of laundry, an order of stuff from Target, and many friends.

God's love is far too great to be contained to the realm of feeling. This is precisely why God sent His Love to the world in human form, first as Jesus Christ at Christmas and then as Christ's Body, the Church, empowered by His Spirit at Pentecost. Jesus is Immanuel, "God with Us". But, oddly...so are we!

December 20

Day 24

Wear a Christmas sweater! Post it on social media, tag your church! Share your excitement that it's Christmas and we have something to celebrate. Tell people why you are celebrating advent! Be BOLD! (Too many!!!? No WAY!)

December 21

Day 25

Use these prayers written by First Presbyterian Church's Ted Lucas to guide your prayer time today. Fasting is encouraged!

Radiant Light Overcoming Darkness

We live in a world where it seems the darkness is encroaching with a disturbing, deepening hue. Hostility, rage, fragmentation, untruth, polarization, isolation, oppression, lawlessness, violence, war, political and economic chaos... where is one to find hope in such an age? How is one to live? Retreat, hide, react, protest, defend or something radically more? What is our vision of future hope?

A Prayer

Jesus, you proclaimed that you are the light of the world. Those who follow you will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life (Jn 8:12). In your coming, you are our lamp and turn our darkness into light (2 Sa 22:29). It is by your light by which we see. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light (Ps 36:9).

Come, Lord Jesus.

Before your coming, the world was in far greater darkness than we perceive in our age. The people then walking in darkness then saw a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light dawned (Is 9:2). You were and are radiant with light (Ps 76:4). You turned the darkness into light before them (Is 42:16). You were and are our everlasting light (Is 6:19).

Come, Lord Jesus.

You are the true light giving light to everyone that came into the world (Jn 1:9). You made your dwelling among us, coming in your glory

and from the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn 1:14). You came into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in you should stay in darkness (Jn 12:46).

Come, Lord Jesus.

You taught us that your followers are the light of the world, a city on a hill that cannot be hidden (Jn 5:14). We ask for your Spirit to reflect your light in us in living graceful lives of generative love. Root and establish us in love and give us the power together to more deeply comprehend how wide and long and high and deep is your love for us. Reveal the works of love you have created for us in advance. Yield fruitfulness in our lives; increase our love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Come, Lord Jesus.

In letting our light shine before others, may others see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven (Mt 5:16). We were once darkness, but are now light and live as children of light. Bear fruit of the light in us in goodness, righteousness and truth, and help us learn what pleases you (Eph 5:8). Replace our judgment with mercy. Increase our love for each other as we live in the light so nothing in us stumbles (1 Jn 2:20). Help us to shine among our warped and crooked generation as stars in the sky as we hold firmly to the word of life (Ph 2:15, 16).

Come, Lord Jesus.

By your light, we look with joy to the day your Kingdom is fully come. Your city will not need the sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God will give it light and you, the Lamb, will be its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it (Rv 21:23, 24). There will be no more night. We will not need the light of a lamp or the sun, for you will give us light and reign for ever and ever (Rv 22:5). Your radiant light, glory and love will have fully overcome darkness!

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

December 22

Day 26

Donate to a charity of your choice.

We are called to be generous with our time and our resources. Take time today to thoughtfully give to a charity of your choice.

We live together as a community of believers to love, support and uplift. If you are struggling to meet a critical need this season, please let your church leadership know!

December 23

Day 27

Go into the city and look at Christmas lights! Enjoy the seasonal glow and sparkle. Marvel over the creativity and beauty or enjoy the humor of a bad light display.

Spend time with family or take a friend.

December 24

Day 28

Take some time to look back over the holiday season. Look at what you wrote on day seven. How did God meet you this season? How has participating in advent helped you to stay focused on what matters?

Anticipate the next few days of family and friends, or for whatever season you are in, prepare to face difficult emotions of the holiday knowing you are loved and you have a community of believers who will pray with and for you. Find a moment of peace. Use this space to make note of any special prayers you have for this holiday.

December 25

Christmas

Merry Christmas!

Meet at First Presbyterian Church at 4:00 PM at Dolores Park Church to worship together.
