

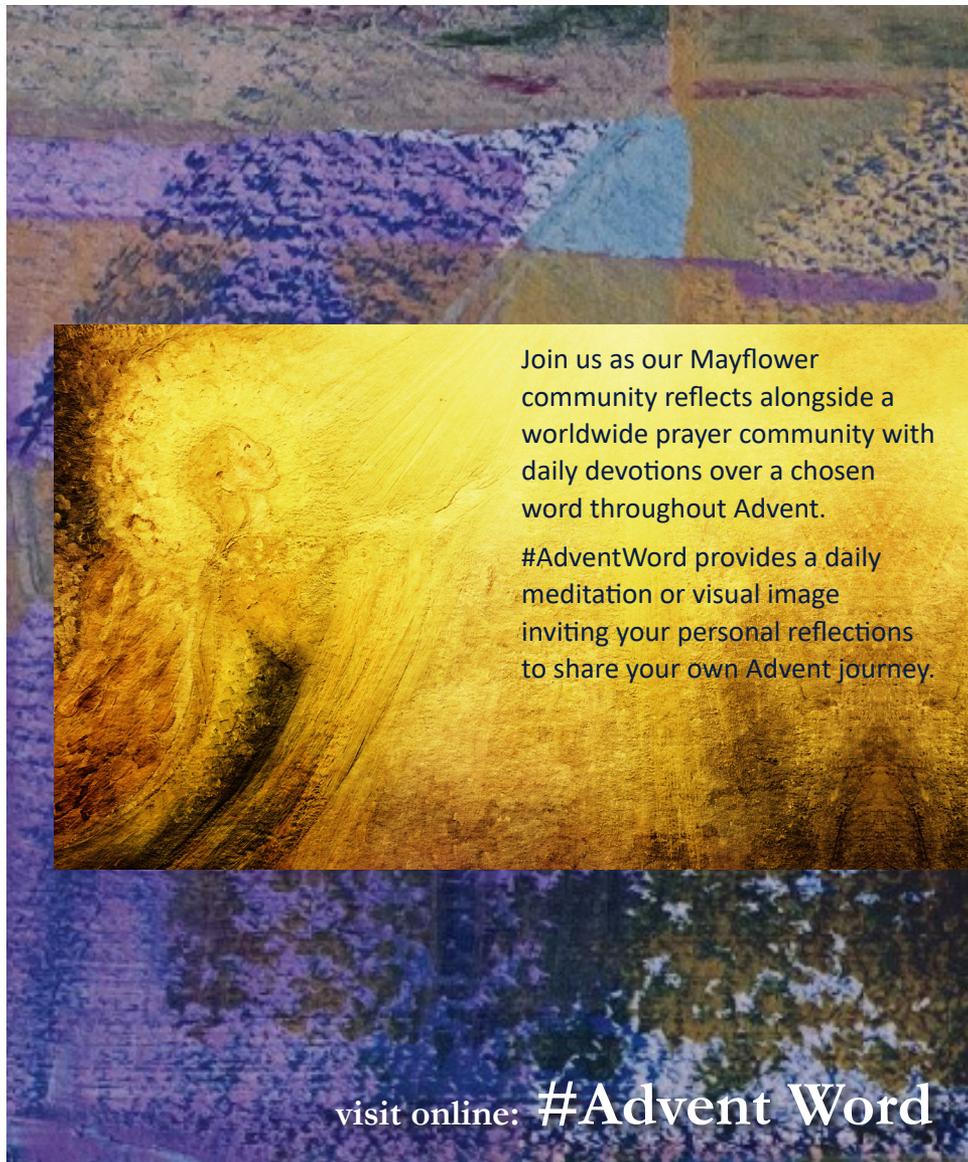
# MAYFLOWER

*Join us!* Congregational Church

Faith's journey • God is good • Jesus saves • Spirit leads

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Nov 28 - Dec 4



Join us as our Mayflower community reflects alongside a worldwide prayer community with daily devotions over a chosen word throughout Advent.

#AdventWord provides a daily meditation or visual image inviting your personal reflections to share your own Advent journey.

visit online: [#Advent Word](#)

## Sunday, November 28: **Promise**

by Steve Armfield

2 PETER 3:9

One of my favorite children's stories is Dr. Seuss' "Horton the Elephant." I love that elephant. Remember that flaky duck mother who left her egg with Horton and said, "Would you watch this egg please?" She leaves that egg and never comes back.

Horton stays with that egg until it hatches. He's a wonderful mother. Remember that great line Dr. Seuss gives to Horton? He says: "I meant what I said, and I said what I meant. An elephant's faithful 100%." A great message of Advent is that God keeps promises, God is faithful 100%! The old promise was that a Messiah, a Savior, will come; and come he did... a Savior is born!

## Monday, November 29: **Strength**

by Harold Montgomery

Strength of Spirituality: The character Strength of Spirituality involves our capacity to dig deep and find the greater meaning in life to align ourselves with a purpose that extends beyond ourselves, to find relationship and unity with something greater such as nature or God.

## Tuesday, November 30: **Soul**

by Rachael Cooley

PSALMS 19:7A

December is filled with so many wonderful things to experience and do which often brings us to Christmas Eve feeling weary, tired and I dare say, never restored. But when we look at the manger scene, peace washes over us as all of creation stills at the birth of Jesus. I believe our souls need to be still and experience that same peace during this season of Advent. But how???

God gave each of us a soul to house His Spirit and out of that soul pours His love and joy. Soul care is important and can be accomplished in many different ways; rest, being out in nature, reliving a Christmas tradition that brought you joy and wonder as a child, reading a daily devotion, or having an extra cup of tea by the fire. By restoring your soul, you bring the love and wonder of Christmas to life. Find what it is that brings joy and peace and do it, for your soul's sake!

## Wednesday, December 1: **Path**

by Andy Ely

PSALM 16:11

There are many verses that talk about your Path in life (e.g. Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 119: 105, Isaiah 26:7, Psalm 23:3, Psalm 18:36, Proverbs 4:18-19). They mostly talk about the path of the righteous being: straight, level, upright, and smooth. The opposite is described as crooked, slippery, wicked, dark, evil, and death. So how do you walk the path of righteousness when Paul says in Romans 3:10:

As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one”? As we head down the progression of our own paths, it is important that we come to believe that truth is from God and it’s absolute and not something we humans choose. Ultimately, those who believe are credited with righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22). God has defined what he wants our paths to look like. If we can move down our paths continuously acknowledging that God is over us, Christ is with us, and the Spirit is in us, we will mature in our faith and move toward the purpose God has laid out for each of us.

## Thursday, December 2: **Justice**

by Ruth Bell Olsson

LUKE 1:46-55

These verses in the book of Luke are referred to as Mary’s Magnificat (the Latin translation of “magnifies”). Lest we picture Mary as meek and mild, this song of hers includes a tremendous cry for justice. Living under Roman occupation and the rule of the greedy and murderous King Herod, Mary knows that God’s Kingdom is marked by justice. Rulers like Herod are temporary and will be brought down. Scot McKnight writes, “Mary’s song praises God for cracking the heavens wide open and descending into the world to establish justice and rout out unjust rulers.”

How does this change our perception of Mary? How are we to be inspired by her confidence in the God of justice? How can our souls mirror hers as we magnify God?

## Friday, December 3: **Fulfill**

by Ginger Young

PSALM 145:19

The birth of Christ is the fulfillment of all God's promises to us. He came as the son of God to teach us how to live godly lives, how to love our neighbors as ourselves, and above all, to love God with all our hearts. Through the fulfillment of his promise, he gave us a gift beyond all imagination. The gift of unconditional love and grace. The meager gifts that we exchange are a reminder of the sacrifice and promises of God in our lives. To fulfill our promise to God, we must recognize and acknowledge His gift, by devoting our lives to his service at Christmas and throughout every day we dwell in His Kingdom.

## Saturday, December 4: **Heart**

by Ellen DeHaan

DEUTERONOMY 6:4

The Advent season can be very busy with shopping, programs, and many family events. It is important to remember that the heart of the season is in the times spent together as families in sharing and looking forward to God's gift to each of us.

When we were in Israel as a family we started each day with the Sh'ma and then we were on our daily travels and journeys of the land Jesus traveled.

Advent is a journey of the heart that we all share together as a family in Christ.



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