

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3</p> <p>Come to the Wholeness Service at 4 or take time to remember those who grieve.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Hold the door open for someone.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lend a friend your favorite book or movie.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Tell someone your favorite thing about church.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Sponsor a stocking or cozy kit for MTAM.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Pick up litter.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Share a funny story or video with a friend.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Bring a friend to church or make a new friend at church.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Find a reason to laugh today.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Tell someone your favorite thing about Jesus.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Come to an Advent service and lunch.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Spend time with friends or family unplugged from technology.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Forgive someone. Repeat.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Recognize the good in someone.</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Visit someone who is lonely—take poinsettia.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Leave notes of encouragement on someone's car.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Leave a note for a friend or co-worker with a specific compliment.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Share your favorite Bible story with a friend.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Do something in service of someone else. MIFA Family Service day is a great way to help!</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Compliment a parent on how well-behaved their child is.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Tell someone why they are special to you.</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Come to worship!</p> <p>11 am</p> <p>5 pm</p> <p>11 pm</p>	<p>For Christmas Eve Worship:</p> <p>11 am service is family-friendly and will serve communion</p> <p>5 pm service is the traditional Lessons & Carols service</p> <p>11 pm is the traditional youth-led candle-lighting communion service</p>					

December 3

Creator God, thank you for providing us with the mountain top, and especially for Jesus Christ who teaches us how to be true children of God. Thank you for your grace, may it strengthen us to always work to bring Your Kingdom to earth. Please teach even those with great political power to follow Christ's example. Forgive us when we falter and lead us back to the mountain.

December 4

Lord, we are awake. May we always be awake to the presence of Christ, and may he never find us asleep when he comes. Amen.

December 5

Yes, yes; oh, my God, yes; what Thou hast promised, I believe...what Thou hast given, I receive. Amen.

December 6

Gracious God as we experience the Advent season of awaiting and hope, spur us on to daily "increasing our love to all." May these days remind us to live as your disciples, serving others in thanksgiving and joy.

December 7

May I, during this Advent, remember that your Son sacrificially taught us that out of loss can come a joy that knows no bounds. Thank you, God. Amen.

December 8

Lord, as we move through this season of advent, help us to remember not only the joy your arrival brought us but also the peace and unity you promise us in your kingdom. Remind us to slow our judgement and seek your righteousness as we look to serve those around us. Amen.

December 9

Dear God, I ask that the Light which came into the world fill our lives throughout the coming days. In His name, Amen.

December 10

The older I get, the more grateful I become for these lovely teachers. Thank you, thank you, Lord, for, like them, knowing my self-centered heart and loving me anyway.

December 11

Eternal God, You have called us to go forth on a journey of discipleship.

Too often, however, we hasten to step out in faith without listening. As the busyness of the season threatens to overwhelm us, Help us slow down and hold fast to the priorities of our faith.

Help us take on the risks of change and new challenges, As we follow the disciples' call, knowing You travel with us. Amen

December 12

God, you sent your son, and you keep on sending Him.

Sometimes we don't recognize him when everything is turkey and dressing, games and gifts.

Maybe it takes a sad Christmas to drag us back to what it's all about.

So we thank you for each other,

For memories that link us and futures that bind us together.

Be with us in the hard, lonely, painful times.

Prince of Peace, bring us peace even now. Amen.

December 13

"Angels announce with shouts of mirth/Christ who brings new life to earth./Set every peak and valley humming/With the word, the Lord is coming./People, look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way." Amen.

December 14

Dear God, continue to remind us of your presence in our daily lives. Show us your love and let us take comfort in it. Keep us strong in our continued search for you.

May we find in you a holy place where pain and suffering fall away and love takes their place. Amen

December 15

May I live each day with the words of the hymn printed upon my heart.

"Open my eyes that I may see, glimpses of hope thou hast for me.

Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

December 16

Lord, help me to remember the peace and hope of your promises. Remind me to live my life in your light, and to support others in your light as well. Amen.

December 17

Lord, as we seek to give thanks in all circumstances, help us to find continual rejoicing as we notice the many blessings you bestow on us. Surround us with your peace; and strengthen us to be patient, helpful and good to all around us. Amen.

December 18

God, even when I do not want to forgive my ancestors, you do. Help me do so, too. Even when I feel it is impossible to forgive my enemies, you know all things are possible through you. Help me do so, too. Even when I don't know how I could possibly be seen as prophetic, you see me. Help me do so, too. Even when I do not think the sun will rise, you know it will. Help me do so, too. Even during this Christmas season, during the busiest of times, help me do these things, and so many more, which are only possible through you. Amen.

December 19

I pray that we will continue to seek Jesus' light and that we never fail to appreciate the abundance of our blessings. More importantly, I pray that we will spread His sustaining, comforting light throughout our community to stem the darkness that, for so many of our neighbors, feels colder and bleaker now than at any other time of the year.

December 20

God, thank you for my family of choice; for love and grace freely given, both human and divine; and for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Embolden me to offer love and acceptance to your children who suffer the pain and loneliness of broken relationships.

December 21

O Master, let me not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are raised to eternal life.

December 22

We pray for many things, God: for forgiveness, for courage, for strength, for health, for love, for peace. Help us also to give to others understanding, compassion, joyous laughter, love, and forgiveness. Always, always, especially during Advent, we are grateful for the ultimate gift of grace in Jesus Christ.

December 23

Dear God, May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, oh Lord, my strength and my redeemer. Teach us to live in peace, without envy of others or meanness in our spirit. Help us to practice kindness to all and to recognize where especial kindness is needed. Amen

December 24

Dear God, help us to appreciate more fully your simple love for humankind. Let us seek to find and deliver justice in our lives daily. Make of us instruments of your peace, finely-tuned singing:

*Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains.
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Amen*