

December 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| <p>2</p> <p>Come to the Wholeness Service at 4:00 or take time to remember those who grieve.</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Pray for the Early Enrichment Center teachers who start today.</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Write “Jesus loves you” on your mirror in dry erase marker. Remember Christ like kindness.</p> | <p>5</p> <p>Pray for our partner church, Juan G. Hall in Cuba. Today marks 5 years in partnership!</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Sponsor a stocking or cozy kit for MTAM.</p> | <p>7</p> <p>Run an errand for a friend who is busy or let someone run one for you!</p> | <p>8</p> <p>Connect with a family member or friend whom you haven’t talked to for awhile.</p> |
| <p>9</p> <p>Give thanks to God for the choir and the cantata in worship today (join us in person or on Livestream)!</p> | <p>10</p> <p>Pray for the Room in the Inn ministry which Idlewild is hosting at Calvary tonight.</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Compliment the first three people you see today.</p> | <p>12</p> <p>Come to a noon Advent worship service and stay for lunch!</p> | <p>13</p> <p>Help preserve God’s creation– pick up litter, recycle, or turn off the light when you leave a room.</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Christ brings joy! Make someone smile today– tell a joke or make a funny face.</p> | <p>15</p> <p>When you’d rather not, give someone the benefit of the doubt. Practice forgiveness.</p> |
| <p>16</p> <p>Visit someone who is lonely and take a poinsettia or flowers.</p> | <p>17</p> <p>Leave a note on someone’s car telling them how awesome they parked.</p> | <p>18</p> <p>When you hear that discouraging voice in your head, tell yourself something positive.</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Introduce yourself to an Idlewild staff member you don’t know. Thank them for their work.</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Share with someone else. MIFA Family Service day is a great way to help!</p> | <p>21</p> <p>Take a deep breath. Be present. “Be still and know that I am God”</p> | <p>22</p> <p>Share the Christmas story with a friend.</p> |
| <p>23</p> <p>Come to Waffle Sunday at 9:40 and join in Christmas carol singing– or sing a carol with a friend!</p> | <p>24</p> <p>Come to worship!!</p> | <p>Advent 2018 “The days are surely coming...”</p> <p>Christmas Eve Worship: 3 pm service is led by children 5 pm service is the traditional Lessons & Carols service 11 pm is the traditional youth-led candle-lighting communion service</p> | | | | |

Advent- Week 1- Hope

December 2

Heavenly father, we humbly thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ. Your promise to mankind has been fulfilled with the coming of Jesus and his daily presence in our lives. Help to guide us in his ways and to enjoy your continuing love and mercy.

December 3

Oh God of mercy and justice, we put our hope in you this Advent season. Open our eyes that we may stay awake, paying attention to the hurt in our world. Guide our actions to your will, that we may serve as a source of healing. Amen.

December 4

Lord, thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus. Guide us toward a better understanding of what we should be doing with our lives and our relationships with others. In Jesus' name, Amen

December 5

Dear God, help us to love one another in the way you love us. Help us to form and strengthen our communities during this time when we look forward to the coming of your Son.

December 6

Lord, be with our partners in Mexico. May your hardworking, faithful people in these communities continue to do everything it takes to sustain their water systems. In their faithfulness, let them continue to work together so that all the people in their communities may have access to the joy of God's living, flowing water.

December 7

Heavenly father at this special time of the year, we ask that the joy that was the news of the first Christmas fill us with hope for a better world for all of your children here on Earth.

December 8

Creator God, as we celebrate Advent we are grateful that even in the 21st century a former herd boy and refugee, through God's grace, love, and hard work, can transform a small corner of the world.

Advent Week 2- Peace

December 9

Lord, let us be instruments of your love and help bring peace and justice. Let us bring your compassion and understanding into our daily lives. May we live out your love in all that we do. Thank you for your promise of always being with us. Amen

December 10

Dear God, as we enter the Advent season, help us prepare for the coming of your love. Help us show others the kindness that you teach. Guide our paths; make them straight; so that we might spend another Christmas

season bettering ourselves for the sake of making a change in your world and finding grace in the confusion and unanswered questions. Amen.

December 11

Gracious God, your Word and your world show us, again and again, that we are in fact your beloved. Help us to be at peace, confident, and assured of your many blessings as we anticipate our Savior's return. In his blessed name, Amen.

December 12

Eternal and Loving God, we join our voices with many others, to affirm the joy of this Advent season. May our hopes be genuine echoes of Your intentions for this world. May our actions name all persons as Your beloved children. May our joy, though blunted at times, never cease because we truly embrace Your promise to all people. And, like John in the passage we just read, may our own humble affirmations be signs of Your presence in this world. Amen.

December 13

Dear Lord, guide us through this glorious time of Advent. May it enrich our lives and inspire us to grow in the wisdom to find our way through the "wilderness" around us. With assurance may we sing Hallelujah with joy in our hearts and know that God is here...always. Amen

December 14

God, awaken our hearts this Advent season to seek and trust in the fulfillment of your promises in these coming days.

December 15

Lord, help me to remember that we all belong to one another. That we heal in community. That hope abounds. That we each need encouragement. And that God offers light, comfort and the promise of salvation for all. Amen.

Advent Week 3- Joy

December 16

Creator God, you call us to step out of our comfort zones, to risk and move courageously in the world. May we persevere in this Advent journey, paying attention to the ways your Spirit beckons—and help us respond. Amen

December 17

To the God who calls us beloved and keeps us from falling...help us to remember your promises. Help us remember that Christ is indeed here. Keep us secure in your love and remind us of your glory, majesty, power, and authority. Amen.

December 18

Dear God, thank you for Jesus, the ultimate keeper of the lower lights. May we never forget how important our support of Idlewild is to lead those in need to a safe harbor. Amen

December 19

Dear Lord, thank you for sending your Son to show us how to love in this world. Thank you for preparing the way for our good and for Your message to repeatedly find a way into our lives. Let us live each day expecting You to be with us and for us. Use us to share Your hope and love with one another. Amen.

December 20

Dear Lord, Thank you for your son Jesus Christ. We are grateful that he has shown us what you are like, that he has revealed you to us. Amen

December 21

God of all the generations, thank you for the witness of Elizabeth and Mary. Thank you for the earth-shattering gift of baby Jesus. Help us to align our work to yours. Help us protect and empower vulnerable mothers and families. Give us the grace to see your miracles in the faces of our friends and to call your great works by name. Amplify our voices when we praise you and make us fearless in proclaiming the glory of your redeeming creation.

December 22

May we be surprised when your presence is felt in our commonplace experiences. We will have to settle for less than the spectacular. May a child too weak and sick to cry bear your presence. We do not ask, require, expect, or need a miracle to convince us of your presence. Your presence will be felt, if not recognized, where love, trust, and hope converge. And may it be so. Amen.

Advent Week 4- Love

December 23

Lord, grant us hope and the will to find the strength to drag darkness into the light. Help us find that fierce joy that the promise of your birth awakens in us. Amen.

December 24

Keeper of Promises, Living Waters, Almighty God, hold us in the Everlasting Arms. Move through us so that we may be known as your blessed children. Let us gather and rejoice together in the inn, carrying the burdens and blessings of our human lives. *Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour now and forever more.* Amen.

December 25

*I know that I have life
Only insofar as I have love.
I have no love
Except it come from Thee.
Help me, please, to carry
This candle against the wind. Amen. –Wendell Berry*

These prayers come from this year's Advent Devotional book. Get your copy today!