

Advent Devotional

2022



St Philip's
episcopal church

worship • love • action
a church for all people

#ReverseAdventGiving

Traditional Advent calendars involve daily devotional readings accompanied by chocolate or a toy. This holiday season, St. Philip's is partnering with Urban Ministries of Durham in a new kind of Advent calendar. #ReverseAdventGiving calls us to give to our neighbors, engaging the Advent tradition in a new, communal way.

Along with each weekly devotional reading, you'll see a list of items to donate to UMD. You can drop off each week's items on the donation tables in the Parish Hall. Please join us in helping our neighbors fill their shelves and navigate the winter months this holiday season!

Advent 1 (Hope)

Spiritual Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Scripture Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." *Revelation 21:1-5*

Question What do you hope for?

Prayer God, look at all your beloved children and lift us up when things feel heavy and sad. Remind us never to give up hope because you have good things prepared for us. Amen.

To Donate **Proteins:** peanut butter, canned meat (tuna, chicken, salmon, Vienna sausages), beans (canned and dried)

Canned fruit and veggies: green beans, corn, tomatoes, canned fruit, applesauce

Advent 2 (Peace)

Spiritual I Want to Be Ready

Scripture And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1:76-79*

Question When do you feel peaceful?

Prayer God of peace, we ask you to calm what is noisy inside and to help us get ready for your coming. Amen.

To Donate **Pasta:** dried pasta, canned pasta (ravioli, SpaghettiOs), pasta sauce, mac and cheese, Hamburger Helper-style meal kits

Canned soup: no simple broths or cream-based soups

Advent 3 (Joy)

Spiritual Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

Scripture Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me. *Revelation 3:20*

Question What fills you with joy?

Prayer God, we know that you are near us, even knocking at our door to come in and share your joy with us. Give us the courage to open the door and welcome you in. Amen.

To Donate **Breakfast:** boxed cereal, oatmeal, grits, pancake mix, jelly, jam, coffee, teabags

Special diet items: gluten-free products, no-sugar products, no-sodium products

Advent 4 (Love)

Spiritual Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

Scripture Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them. *Luke 2:8-20*

Question Who do you love?

Prayer Loving God, something good is about to happen. Someone we love very much is right around the corner. Lead us into Christ’s presence, running along love’s path. Amen.

To Donate **Winter warmth:** long-sleeved shirts, sweaters, winter jackets, coats, gloves, winter hats