

2026 Advent Devotionals Book Info and Assistance

Basic instructions:

1. The sign-up sheet is on the landing outside the chapel, or contact Erika at solberg770@gmail.com for a list of available passages.
2. The theme is “Until the Dawn.” If you wish to do so, please incorporate this theme into your devotional. For an explanation of the theme, see below.
3. Indicate what Bible edition you used (such as King James, New Standard Version, etc.)
4. Optional: include a title for your devotional.
5. Send your contribution to Erika Solberg at solberg770@gmail.com.
6. Send your text in the body of your email, as an MS Word document, or as a Google Doc.
7. The due date for your draft is **October 2**.
8. Contact Erika at 270-202-5149 solberg770@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions!

An explanation of the theme “Until the Dawn”:

Every Advent, we light candles and speak of hope. We wait for the good news that God is born. We prepare with pageants and presents. Yet, in the midst of our busy waiting, we know all too well that the world is not as it should be. Wars rage on, violence persists, new tragedies unfold. God’s promises are real, and God’s promised day has not yet come. This tension keeps us yearning—for a new day, a new way, a world made new.

Let us focus on the actions we can take as we move through the night with hope for tomorrow. Night is a time when the way forward may seem unclear, when our senses are heightened and fear may creep in. And the darkness also brings gifts— rest, regeneration, dreams, intimacy with God. In our sacred stories, angels often arrive in the night, calling for courageous action and singing good news. In the night, Mary’s labor pains crescendo and Christ is born. In the night, shepherds and Magi follow the stars to get closer to God. And so, in the metaphorical night, we will carry on with the work that is ours to do.

Just as surely as the sun rises, God’s steadfast love and mercy are made new every morning. As we move toward the horizon, we will cry out, start somewhere, speak up, take courage, build up, and choose joy. These actions will help us resist despair and put our prayers in motion. Until the day when God’s love reigns and all the earth echoes shalom, let us keep moving, singing, resisting, and rejoicing— trusting that God joins us in the work of Advent.

What is a devotional and how do I write one?

A devotional is a short reflection on how a passage connects to God’s teachings. Sometimes it ends with a prayer. Here are some guidelines you can use to think about your passage and write down some thoughts to share

1) Think.

- Read through the passage several times.
- Consider the context of the passage. You might want to read the whole chapter or even read up on any historical references.
- Are there any unfamiliar references that you might want to look up?
- What words or phrases jump out at you? Why?
- How does this passage relate to your life? Does it call up a memory of Christmas or Advent or another time in your life? Do the words comfort or challenge you? Does the passage confuse or reassure you?
- How does this passage relate to Advent? We are waiting for the arrival of the baby Jesus and anticipate the return of Christ. How does your passage connect to those actions? How might it help us prepare?
- How does this passage relate to the theme of “Until the Dawn”?

2) Write.

- Don't feel like you have to dive right into writing whole paragraphs. You can make a list of words or phrases, make a mind map, do a short outline, etc.
- When you're ready, turn your ideas into a few short paragraphs and perhaps a prayer at the end. If you want, imagine you're talking to members of our congregation: tell them any thoughts you had in response to the questions above or any other ideas you want to explore or share.
- Be yourself! Don't feel like you need to say something that's never been said before or that you need to sound like a minister. Your readers want to hear what YOU think.
- Put your work aside for a while and then read through what you wrote without making any changes yet. Then go back and make any changes you want to make your ideas clearer to yourself and your readers.
- When you feel like you've done all you want to do, try to think of a title.
- Send it off!