

# Take ACTION

Weekly Sermon Insert and Devotional

LOVE • LEARN • SHARE • SERVE

This week we are officially in Advent and will be celebrating Thanksgiving. I have given you a different Advent scripture each day. Read through the scripture and then answer the following questions:

- What does it say about God?
- What does it say about Human beings?
- What does it say about Creation?
- What does it say about the relationship between creation, God, and humanity?

Take time to pray over these questions and maybe write down some thoughts you might have in your journal.

**Monday November 21<sup>st</sup>** – Read Isaiah 40:1-5

**Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Read Isaiah 52:7-9

**Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Read Isaiah 40:9-11

**Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>** – Thanksgiving Day. Think about the prayer you will say around your family table. What are some of your favorite traditions? What have been some of the best meals you have shared together? In what ways can we use being thankful to strengthen the ties to our families?

**Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>** – Read Genesis 3:8-16

**Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>** – As you make the transition from Thanksgiving into Christmas (Note how Advent is a very good connector!) Here is a little blessing you can use to celebrate putting up your Christmas tree. Blessing the Christmas tree is a fun way to begin the Christmas season. You may bless the tree as soon as you put it up, or you can wait until after you have decorated it. When you are ready to do the blessing, gather everyone around the tree and designate someone to lead the following prayer.

*Loving God, we stand before you once again. We stand here ready to celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus.*

*Bless this tree, this sign of life and freshness and perseverance in our midst. It stands as a reminder that you are born anew in us each day. Bless our family and friends as we celebrate this joyous season. Keep us safe in our travels, kind in our conversations, and gracious in our giving and receiving. We ask you this in confidence, because we know you love us. Amen.*

Join in singing a favorite Christmas carol, such as “O Christmas Tree” or “Joy to the World.”

Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

**Healing Strength:** Betty and Chet Bomaster, Ethan Boles, Kevin Claridge (Barb McCormack’s nephew), Chris & Katie Hamon, Rex Townsend, Stan Ensch, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb’s daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough’s daughter)

**Sympathies:** Family of Erin Krebs (Eric’s brother)

**Homebound Members:** Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

**Military Personnel:** Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark