EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of West Texas*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Songs of Advent

2026 Advent Devotional

1st WEEK OF ADVENT

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READ

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

LISTEN

Heaven Come Down by Citipointe Worship featuring Jasmine Hodge

Lyrics by Elliot Burnett, Aaron Lucas and Jose Isai Valdez

Links to Youtube, Spotify, Tidal, etc

REFLECT

Do Only What You Do

The Psalmist in Psalm 80 calls upon the *Lord God of hosts*. The self-existent and redemptive Lord. The Lord who commands all heavenly and earthly forces. The phrase emphasizes God’s presence over all powers, dominions, forces and realms. In the chorus of *Heaven Come Down*, we call down our God to be present and “Do only what you do.” From the psalm, a plea to give God’s right hand. That which we should burn for. Through God’s sovereignty, let your “hand be on the man of your right hand.”

Through God comes the “allness” of our Savior, Jesus Christ. (Yes, I made up the word “allness,” because sometimes there isn’t a word complete enough to define what you mean to communicate. So I created a new one.) To this earthly place, the prophet Isaiah implores that the Lord of hosts bring to the nations, heaven, a place of God’s presence that comes with the unstoppable power of earthquakes. The fuel of a fire that changes all that is in one state to another. Like water to a steaming boil. We will be changed in God’s presence. We will meet God as we live now. In our brokenness and in God’s presence, the thick shadows of sin dissolve. “Do only what You do.” Not through our pleas, but through your folding hands that work to mold your people.

There stands a call in this song & scripture, let our spirits “burn like fire” for God. As the ancient words of the Lord’s prayer tumble from our mouths, do our hearts burn with fire for our Lord of hosts? As we serve others, do we place our feet in the muck of details, or do we burn for our Lord?

Picture if you will, a guard standing and waiting. Fire by his side, waiting for the master. Standing and waiting for God’s signs and wonders. As God moves through the Lord’s people, are their fires ready? As in the word from the Book of Mark. “Be on guard, keep awake.”

WONDER

1. In this Advent season, how can we gather kindling and begin growing this fire within our spirits?
2. What do we need to do to stoke the fire inside as we celebrate the story of God’s first coming and for heaven to come down (again) and do what only God can do?

PRAY

Lord of hosts, as we lift our eyes to your presence and power, we pray to recognize and claim that we believe in your strength and glory. We await, not only to embrace all that you are, but to wake each day burning for the life that you have planned. To await a living God and say, “We can’t wait to see you do what you do.” Amen.