

A THRILL OF
HOPE
THE
reset
HAS COME

ISAIAH 9:2-7

2025 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

LIGHT OVERCOMES DARKNESS | A SAVIOR IS BORN



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA
Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Senior Pastor
450 Orchard St NW, Vienna, VA 22180



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Letter from our Pastor
- Introduction
- Week 1: Hope Reset
- Week 2: Peace Reset
- Week 3: Joy Reset
- Week 4: Love Reset
- Week 5: Life Reset (Christmas)
- RESET FULFILLED



HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

1. Read the daily Bible passage.
2. Reflect on the short devotional thought.
3. Pray using the weekly prayer or your own words.
4. Journal your thoughts and reflections.
5. Take the weekly "Reset Challenge" to put your faith into action.
6. Sing or meditate on the weekly Christmas Carol.

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR



Grace and peace to you in the name of our soon-coming King!

As we step into this holy season of Advent, we are invited once again to wait; not with idle hands, but with hearts wide open. Advent is a season of waiting, longing, and expectation. It is the sacred pause between what was and what shall be. We look back with gratitude to that holy night in Bethlehem when Heaven touched Earth, and the Word became flesh. In this in-between time, we live as people of promise who are anchored in hope, filled with peace, strengthened by joy, and grounded in love.

This year's theme, "A Thrill of Hope: The Reset Has Come," reminds us that Christ's coming changes everything. When Jesus steps in, broken things are made whole, weary souls find rest, and the story takes a holy turn. Just as a reset clears what is corrupted and makes room for something new, the arrival of Christ resets our hope, our peace, our joy, our love, and our very lives. He brings renewal where there is weariness, calm where there is chaos, gladness where there is despair, love where there is division, and new life where there was once death.

Each week in this devotional, we will journey through one of these divine "resets." You will find Daily Scripture Readings and Reflections, Weekly Prayers, Journaling Prompts, Reset Challenges, and Christmas Carols to lift your heart in worship. Take your time with each one — let the Word soak in deep. Allow the Spirit to speak, to stir, and to strengthen you for the days ahead.

Our prayer is that as you move through this devotional, you will experience the thrill of hope rising up within you — that blessed assurance that Christ has come, Christ is with us, and Christ will come again. May that hope lift your head, steady your soul, and set your heart ablaze with love. Hold fast, beloved. The reset has come — and the best is yet to be.

With faith and expectation,

Pas. W.



INTRODUCTION

Advent is a season of waiting, longing, and expectation. It is a time when we look back with gratitude to the first coming of Christ in Bethlehem, and we look forward with hope to His promised return. In the in-between, we live as people of promise—anchored in hope, filled with peace, strengthened by joy, and grounded in love.

This year's theme, "A Thrill of Hope: The Reset Has Come," reminds us that Christ's coming changes everything. Just as a reset clears what is broken and allows for a new beginning, the arrival of Jesus resets our hope, peace, joy, love, and life. He brings renewal where there is weariness, calm where there is chaos, gladness where there is despair, love where there is division, and new life where there was once death.

Each week of this devotional focuses on one of these "resets," guiding you through: - Daily Bible Readings & Reflections - Weekly Prayers - Journaling Prompts - Reset Challenges - Christmas Carols to sing or reflect on in worship

Our prayer is that as you walk through this devotional, you will experience the thrill of hope afresh—that deep assurance that Christ has come, Christ is with us, and Christ will come again.

OUR HOPE RESET

**JESUS BRINGS HOPE WHEN LIFE FEELS
UNCERTAIN OR DIFFICULT.**

*"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light."
Isaiah 9:2*

DAILY READINGS & REFLECTIONS

01 Isaiah 9:2
Where do you feel darkness in your life?

02 Lamentations 3:22-23
How can you rely on God's faithfulness today?

03 Romans 15:13
In what areas of your life do you need God's hope?

04 Psalm 33:18
How does knowing God sees you change your perspective?

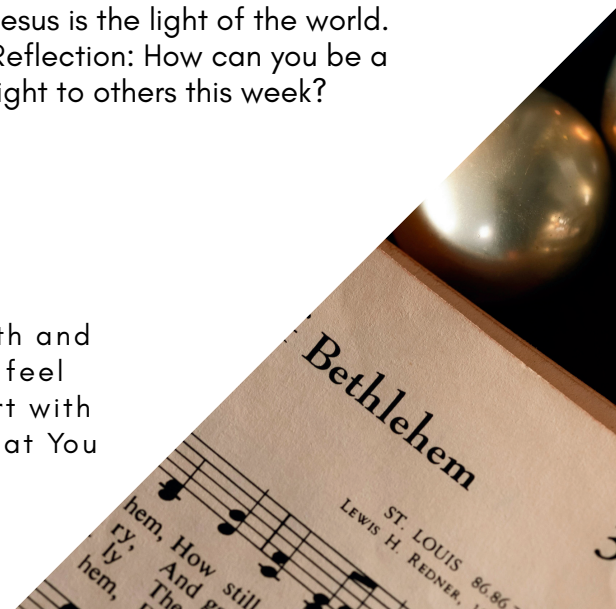
05 1 Peter 1:3
What does "living hope" mean for your daily life?

06 Micah 7:7
How do you cultivate patience in waiting for God?

07 John 8:12
Jesus is the light of the world. Reflection: How can you be a light to others this week?

PRAYER

God of hope, thank You for renewing my strength and reminding me that my hope rests in You. When I feel weary, discouraged, or uncertain, reset my heart with the living hope found in Christ. Help me trust that You are faithful to every promise. Amen.



OUR HOPE RESET

DEVOTIONAL READING

Hope is a powerful force, especially when life feels dark or uncertain. In Isaiah 9:2, we are reminded that “the people walking in darkness have seen a great light.” That light is Jesus. Hope is not wishful thinking or optimism that things will magically get better; it is confidence in God’s promises, a trust in His character, and the knowledge that He is present even in difficult times.

When we face personal challenges—illness, relationship struggles, or uncertainty about the future—it can be easy to focus only on the darkness. Yet, the birth of Christ reminds us that God is faithful and that He intervenes in history to bring light into darkness. Advent calls us to pause, reflect, and embrace this hope.

This week, consider the areas in your life where you feel hopeless or fearful. Ask God to shine His light into those places and give you clarity and strength. Take time to journal, meditate, or pray about one specific situation where you need hope. Let this light guide your thoughts and actions.

Hope also has a ripple effect. When we experience God’s hope, we are equipped to encourage and inspire hope in others. Be intentional about sharing this light with a friend, family member, or coworker who may be struggling. Your witness can point them to the ultimate source of hope—Jesus.

As you journey through this week, hold onto the promise that darkness does not have the final word. Jesus brings a living hope that renews us each day and carries us through every uncertainty.

**RESET CHALLENGE: SEND AN ENCOURAGING
MESSAGE, CARD, OR PRAYER TO SOMEONE WHO
MAY BE STRUGGLING TO HOLD ONTO HOPE.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

– A prayer of hope fulfilled in Christ.

OUR PEACE RESET

**JESUS BRINGS PEACE EVEN IN THE MIDST OF
ANXIETY OR CONFLICT.**

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6*

DAILY READINGS & REFLECTIONS

01 **John 14:27**

How is the peace Jesus offers
different from the kind the world
promises?

02 **Philippians 4:6-7**

What anxieties or worries do you
need to hand over to God?

03 **Isaiah 26:3**

How does trusting God change the
way you experience peace?

04 **Colossians 3:15**

What does it look like for peace to
"rule" your heart in your relationships
and community?

05 **Numbers 6:24-26**

How can you extend this blessing of
peace to others around you?

06 **Psalms 4:8**

What worries do you need to
release to God tonight so you can
truly rest?

07 **Romans 12:18**

How can you be an active
peacemaker in your home,
church, or community?† to others
this week?

PRAYER

Prince of Peace, calm my anxious heart and steady my
mind. Teach me to release worry and rest in the peace
that You give. Reset my relationships so that I may be
an instrument of Your peace to others. Amen.



OUR PEACE RESET

DEVOTIONAL READING

Peace is often misunderstood as simply the absence of conflict or trouble. True peace, however, is a deep, abiding sense of calm rooted in the presence of God. Isaiah 9:6 calls Jesus the “Prince of Peace.” He comes to reconcile, restore, and quiet the turmoil in our hearts.

In today’s fast-paced world, anxiety and stress can feel constant. Relationships, finances, and global events can shake even the strongest among us. Yet, God invites us to lay our burdens before Him. Philippians 4:6–7 reminds us to present our requests to God with thanksgiving so that His peace —“which transcends all understanding”—guards our hearts and minds.

This week, practice intentionally giving your worries to God. Write them down, name them in prayer, and ask for His peace to settle in your heart. Consider how you might bring peace into your relationships—through forgiveness, listening, or acts of kindness. Peace is contagious; when God’s peace flows through us, it can calm storms in the lives of others as well.

Meditate on the idea that peace is more than quiet—it is a trust that God is in control, even when circumstances seem uncertain. Let His peace anchor you this week.

**RESET CHALLENGE: TAKE ONE STEP TOWARD
RECONCILIATION—THROUGH A KIND WORD, AN
APOLOGY, OR PRAYER.**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

– A song proclaiming God’s peace to the world

OUR JOY RESET

JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF DEEP AND LASTING JOY.

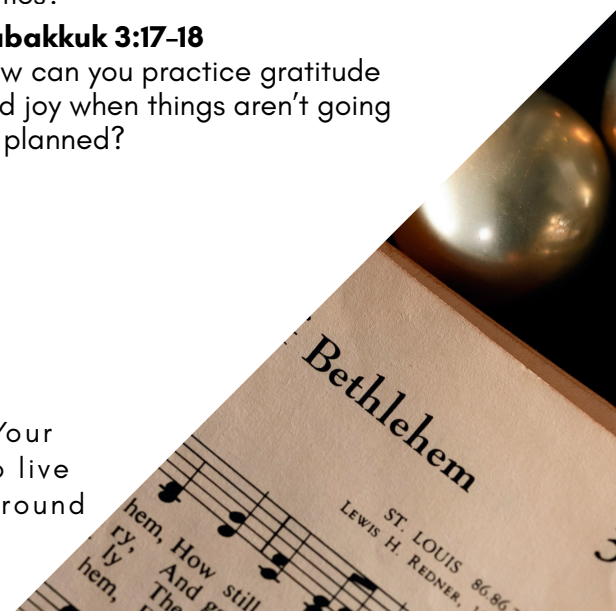
*"I bring you good news of great joy!"
Luke 2:10*

DAILY READINGS & REFLECTIONS

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| 01 | Psalm 16:11
How has God guided you on your own "path of life" toward deeper joy? | 05 | 1 Peter 1:8-9
How does your faith in the unseen Christ bring you joy? |
| 02 | Nehemiah 8:10
How can joy coexist with grief or pain in the life of a believer? | 06 | Psalm 30:5
How does this verse encourage you to hold onto hope during hard times? |
| 03 | Isaiah 55:12
How does creation's celebration of God remind you to worship joyfully? | 07 | Habakkuk 3:17-18
How can you practice gratitude and joy when things aren't going as planned? |
| 04 | John 15:11
What habits or choices help you stay connected to the source of complete joy? | | |

PRAYER

God of joy, thank You for good news that brings rejoicing. Reset my heart so that joy flows from Your presence, not from my circumstances. Help me to live with joy that strengthens me and blesses those around me. Amen.



OUR JOY RESET

DEVOTIONAL READING

Joy is often confused with happiness, which can be fleeting and dependent on circumstances. True joy, however, comes from knowing Jesus and living in His promises. Luke 2:10 reminds us that the angels proclaimed “good news of great joy” at Jesus’ birth. This joy is not seasonal or temporary; it is eternal, rooted in God’s faithfulness.

Even in trials, we can experience joy because it is anchored in the unchanging nature of God. Joy is a choice and a posture of the heart, cultivated through gratitude, worship, and obedience. It flourishes when we focus on what God has done and will do, rather than on what is lacking.

This week, reflect on areas of your life where joy feels absent. Ask God to help you see His presence in both ordinary and extraordinary moments. Identify at least one way to share joy with others, whether through encouragement, generosity, or celebration. Remember, joy multiplies when it is shared.

Consider keeping a small “joy journal” for the week—record moments that spark gratitude and delight. Let these reflections remind you that true joy is found in Christ and is not shaken by circumstances.

**RESET CHALLENGE: DO SOMETHING INTENTIONAL
THIS WEEK TO BRING JOY TO SOMEONE ELSE—
SHARE A MEAL, A GIFT, OR LAUGHTER.**

Joy to the World

– A celebration of Christ’s coming and the joy He brings

OUR LOVE RESET

**GOD'S LOVE CALLS US TO LOVE OTHERS
INTENTIONALLY.**

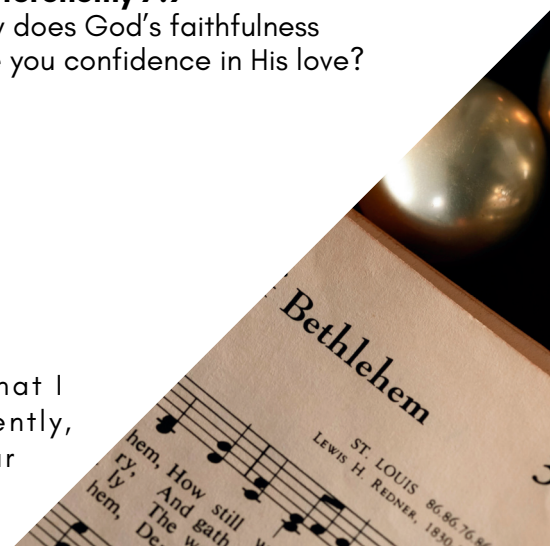
"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son."
John 3:16

DAILY READINGS & REFLECTIONS

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| 01 | Romans 5:8
What does this verse reveal about the depth and nature of God's love? | 05 | Ephesians 3:17-19
How can you help others grasp the depth of that love this Advent season? |
| 02 | 1 John 3:1
How can knowing your identity as God's beloved child change the way you see yourself & others? | 06 | 1 John 4:9-11
How might you reflect God's love to someone who feels forgotten or unseen? |
| 03 | 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
Which of these qualities of love challenges you the most right now? | 07 | Deuteronomy 7:9
How does God's faithfulness give you confidence in His love? |
| 04 | John 15:12-13
Who in your life might need you to show sacrificial or selfless love? | | |

PRAYER

God of love, thank You for sending Jesus as the greatest gift. Reset my understanding of love so that I may love others as You love me—sacrificially, patiently, and with grace. Help me live in the security of Your unfailing love. Amen.



OUR LOVE RESET

DEVOTIONAL READING

God's love is the foundation of all that we believe and do. John 3:16 reminds us that His love is sacrificial, personal, and life-changing. Love is not merely a feeling; it is an action rooted in God's character and demonstrated through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

During Advent, we reflect on how God's love enters our lives and calls us to respond. 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 describes love as patient, kind, and enduring. Love is active—it seeks the well-being of others, forgives, and perseveres even when it is difficult.

This week, evaluate how you are living out God's love. Who in your life needs to experience His love through your words or actions? Identify specific ways to demonstrate love intentionally—sending a note, offering forgiveness, serving, or simply listening with empathy.

As you practice love, remember that it is rooted in God's love for you. Reflect daily on how His love transforms your heart and equips you to love others authentically and sacrificially.

**RESET CHALLENGE: PERFORM A SIMPLE ACT OF
LOVE FOR SOMEONE WITHOUT EXPECTING
ANYTHING IN RETURN.**

O Holy Night

– A carol of God's love revealed in the birth of Christ.

OUR LIFE RESET

**JESUS BRINGS FULLNESS OF LIFE, LIGHT, AND
HOPE TO THE WORLD.**

*"In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people."
John 1:4*

DAILY READINGS & REFLECTIONS

01 Isaiah 7:14
What does the name Immanuel,
"God with us," mean to you
personally?

02 Luke 2:6-14
How can you make space in your
life to truly receive the good
news the angels proclaimed?

03 John 10:10
In what areas of your life do you
need Jesus to bring renewal or
abundance?

04 Colossians 3:1-4
How does knowing your life is
"hidden with Christ" give you
peace or purpose?

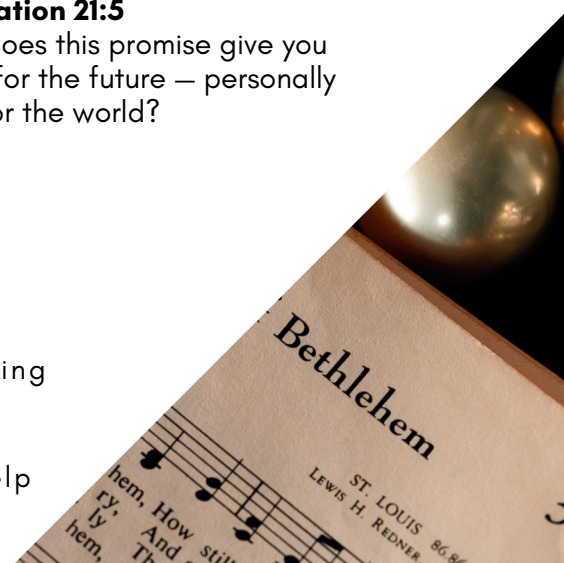
05 2 Corinthians 5:17
What new thing is God doing in
your life or faith journey right
now?

06 1 John 5:11-12
How does your relationship with
Jesus give your life deeper meaning
and purpose?

07 Revelation 21:5
How does this promise give you
hope for the future — personally
and for the world?

PRAYER

Living Word, thank You for becoming flesh and dwelling
among us. Reset my life with the fullness of Your
presence, the abundance of Your Spirit, and the
promise of eternal life. As I step into a new year, help
me live as a new creation in You. Amen.



OUR LIFE RESET

DEVOTIONAL READING

The birth of Jesus is not only a story of hope, peace, joy, and love—it is a story of life renewed. John 1:4 says, “In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people.” Through Christ, we are offered life in abundance, a life marked by His presence, guidance, and grace.

Life in Jesus is not merely existence; it is a transformation that brings clarity, purpose, and the opportunity to shine His light in the world. This Christmas, reflect on areas of your life that need renewal—relationships, habits, attitudes, or priorities. Invite Jesus to bring new life into these areas.

Consider how you can live out this renewed life in tangible ways—serving others, sharing the gospel, nurturing relationships, or practicing gratitude. Let the story of the nativity inspire you to live fully in the light of Christ, embodying His presence in daily life.

As you celebrate this season, remember that Jesus’ coming is not only a remembrance but an invitation to a renewed life now. Let your life reflect the light, hope, joy, and love that He brings.

**RESET CHALLENGE: CHOOSE ONE AREA OF YOUR
LIFE TO SURRENDER TO CHRIST AS YOU ENTER THE
NEW YEAR. WRITE IT DOWN AND COMMIT IT IN
PRAYER.**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

– A declaration of new life and glory through Christ’s birth



RESET FULFILLED

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has
come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
2 Corinthians 5:17*

The season of Advent has carried us on a journey of expectation—waiting for the Savior, preparing our hearts, and resetting our lives in Him. Now, as Christmas dawns, the waiting gives way to wonder: Christ has come!

Go forth in the thrill of hope. Go forth in the peace of Christ. Go forth in the joy of the Spirit. Go forth in the love of God. May your life be a witness that the Reset has truly come.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, we thank You that You came to reset our lives with Your presence, promises, and power. As we celebrate Your birth, may we never lose the wonder of the gift You are. Reset our hope, renew our peace, restore our joy, and fill our hearts with Your love. Lead us into a new year walking in the new life You have given us. Amen.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF VIENNA

FOLLOW US :



Firstbaptistvienna



First Baptist Church of Vienna



Firstbaptistvienna

CONTACT US :



703-938-8525



www.fbcv.org



fbcvoffice@fbcv.org



450 Orchard St. NW | Vienna, VA 22180