







God's Love for a Hurting World

Advent Prayer Devotional 2026







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"Advent is a time to wait quietly, expectantly, and hopefully for the coming of God's kingdom – the kingdom of healing, peace, and justice."

— Henri Nouwen, With Burning Hearts.

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Day 1 – Monday, 30 November 2026
Incarnation and Presence

Scriptures:
John 1:14 (NIV) — "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us…"
1 John 4:7a, 9,12 (NIV) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God… This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world… No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Reflection:
The incarnation is God's ultimate act of solidarity — God chooses not to stay distant but to live in our reality, fully human, fully present with our suffering. As disciples, we are called to embody this presence, entering the lives of those on the margins with compassion and humility.

Quote:
Karl Barth: "The Word of God, which we call Jesus Christ, is the true and complete revelation of God's self-giving love, who condescends to our human condition not as a distant deity but as Immanuel — God with us."

Barth, Karl. Church Dogmatics. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1936–1969, vol. II/1, 78.

Prayer:
Lord, help me to incarnate your love today by being present to those who are hurting. Teach me to bring comfort and hope, to walk faithfully alongside those in need, and to reflect your love in every action. Amen.

Global Mission Partners Prayer:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Vanuatu, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life as they navigate living in a country that faces so many natural disasters.

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Liturgy Prayer for Advent
(First Sunday of Advent)

Loving God,

You who entered the world in vulnerability and humility, born in a manger to a mother and father far from home, You chose to dwell among the poor, the broken, the forgotten — not in palaces, but in the margins of history.

In the silence of that holy night,
You came close to the wounded heart of humanity,
bearing our griefs, carrying our sorrows, and calling us
to join you in healing the brokenhearted.

As we light these Advent candles, may your presence illumine the darkness within and around us. May we open our hearts to Emmanuel — God with us, God for us. Teach us to embody your incarnate love, to walk with those crushed by life's burdens, and to bring hope where despair lingers.

Fill us with the Spirit of compassion and courage, that we may be your hands and feet in a hurting world. Grant us grace to be patient in waiting, faithful in serving, and joyful in the promise of your coming kingdom.

Come, Lord Jesus, dwell in us and through us.
Transform us by your presence, that we would bring your healing, justice, and peace to the earth.

Amen.

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Day 2 – Tuesday, 1 December 2026
Healing the Brokenhearted

Scripture:
Isaiah 61:1 (NIV) — "He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted…"

Reflection:
Jesus' mission reveals that healing brokenness is central to God's kingdom. Our discipleship calls us to join this mission, partnering with local leaders worldwide who bring hope through practical care and spiritual restoration.

Quote:
Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "God is not the God 'above' the world, but the God who has come among us and suffers with us. To follow Christ means to share in this costly presence with the suffering world."

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. The Cost of Discipleship. New York: Macmillan, 1959, 102.

Personal Prayer:
Jesus, empower me to be part of your healing work in the world. Teach me to comfort, restore, and walk faithfully with those in pain. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in South Sudan, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through the local churches and leaders as they bring your hope, healing, and renewed life to their communities through livelihood projects.

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Day 3 – Wednesday, 2 December 2026
Service to the Vulnerable

Scripture:
Matthew 25:40 (NIV) — "Whatever you did for one of the least of these… you did for me."

Reflection:
Service to the vulnerable is service to Christ Himself. This radical call challenges us to prioritise those that society often overlooks, embracing the incarnational mission that sees value and dignity in every person.

Quote:
C.S. Lewis: "The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us."

Lewis, C.S. Mere Christianity. London: Collins, 1952, 89.

Personal Prayer:
God, give me eyes to see Christ in the faces of the excluded and the courage to act in love and service. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Bangladesh, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through the local church and the evangelists who plant churches among the tribes. Bringing hope, healing, and renewed life through local-language Bibles, songbooks, and children's education.

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Day 4 – Thursday, 3 December 2026
God's Closeness

Scripture:
Psalm 34:18 (NIV) — "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted…"

Reflection:
God's closeness to the broken models the very heart of mission — to be near, to listen, to suffer alongside. Ministry begins with presence, not quick fixes.

Quote:
Eugene Peterson: "The church's task is to bring God's presence where suffering is experienced and hope seems absent."

Peterson, Eugene. A Long Obedience in the Same Direction. Downers Grove: IVP, 1980, 77.

Personal Prayer:
God, teach me to be a companion to the broken, reflecting your nearness and love in all I do. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Indonesia, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through the local church leaders and Bible college students, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life to the various people groups and islands.

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Day 5 – Friday, 4 December 2026
Radical Hospitality

Scripture:
Hebrews 13:2 (NIV) — "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers."

Reflection:
Hospitality is a radical act of incarnational ministry — welcoming the other or stranger as if it were Christ himself. Mission rooted in hospitality breaks down walls and builds community.

Quote:
Mother Teresa: "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

Mother Teresa. Letters to the World. New York: Doubleday, 1996, 34.

Personal Prayer:
Lord, open my heart to welcome and embrace strangers with your love. May my home, hands, and heart reflect your generosity. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in the Philippines, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life as they equip students for Christian service.

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Day 6 – Saturday, 5 December 2026
Solidarity in Joy and Sorrow

Scripture:
Romans 12:15 (NIV) — "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

Reflection:
True discipleship embraces solidarity — sharing both joy and sorrow. This deep empathy shapes mission that is relational and transformative.

Quote:
Thomas Merton: "Compassion is not a feeling of pity but a presence that enters the suffering of another."

Merton, Thomas. New Seeds of Contemplation. New York: New Directions, 1961, 124.

Personal Prayer:
Lord, help me to enter deeply into the lives of others, celebrating and weeping with them. May my life mirror your compassion. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in India, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life to the families and individuals participating in livelihood projects and living in the squatter community and remote villages.

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Day 7 – Sunday, 6 December 2026
Comforting the Hurting

Scripture:
2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV) — "God comforts us… so that we can comfort those in any trouble."

Reflection:
Comfort flows through us. Our suffering and God's comfort empower us to minister effectively to trauma and grief, especially alongside local partners in fragile contexts.

Quote:
Dallas Willard: "Grace is the power to stand in the suffering of the world and serve it faithfully."

Willard, Dallas. The Spirit of the Disciplines. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1988, 101.

Personal Prayer:
God, let your comfort flow through me to bring hope to the hurting. May I be a vessel of your healing. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Papua New Guinea, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life as they reach remote places and minister in challenging circumstances.

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Day 8 – Monday, 7 December 2026
Humble Birth, Humble Hearts

Scripture:
Luke 2:7 (NIV) — "And she gave birth to her firstborn son… and laid him in a manger…"

Reflection:
The humble birth of Christ challenges worldly notions of power and prestige. God's kingdom is upside down — a call to discipleship marked by humility and vulnerability, especially among those living in precarious conditions.

Quote:
Bonaventure: "Christ's humility is the model for all who serve the poor and suffering."

Bonaventure. The Mind's Road to God. Hyde Park: New City Press, 2000, 57.

Personal Prayer:
Jesus, form in me a humble heart that seeks the last place and the lost. Help me to walk with those who are vulnerable and to serve with compassion. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Thailand, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through the leadership and church-planting initiatives, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life in a country with diverse religious beliefs.

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Day 9 – Tuesday, 8 December 2026
Light in the Darkness

Scripture:
Isaiah 9:2 (NIV) — "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light."

Reflection:
The light of Christ breaks into the darkest places, offering hope and renewal. Our discipleship invites us to carry and share this light where despair and exclusion prevail.

Quote:
Eugene Peterson: "Hope is the ability to see God's light even in the deepest darkness."

Peterson, Eugene. A Long Obedience in the Same Direction. Downers Grove: IVP, 1980, 143.

Personal Prayer:
Jesus, fill me with your light that I may shine brightly for those in darkness. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Zimbabwe, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love and light also flow through the staff and house mothers at Khayelihle Children's Village, as they bring hope, healing, and renewed life to vulnerable children.

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Day 10 – Wednesday, 9 December 2026
Love in Service

Scripture:
Matthew 25:40 (NIV) — "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Reflection:
Dorothy Day reminds us that Christian love cannot be abstract. It takes form in soup kitchens, shelters, and solidarity. Love meets Christ in the poor and vulnerable. Our discipleship is tested not in lofty words but in humble service.

Quote:
Dorothy Day: "The Gospel takes away our right forever, to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving poor."

Day, Dorothy. Loaves and Fishes. 1963, 124.

Personal Prayer:
Lord, help me meet You in the faces of the poor, and let love guide my service. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in the pacific, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. Thank you for the decades of faithful partnership. May your love continue to flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life to their communities.

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Day 11 – Thursday, 10 December 2026
Carry Each Other's Burdens

Scripture:
Galatians 6:2 (NIV) — "Carry each other's burdens."

Reflection:
Community and mutual care are essential to the gospel. Walking alongside others in their brokenness reflects Christ's mission to heal and restore.

Quote:
Stanley Hauerwas: "The church is a community that takes seriously the burdens of the world and carries them together."

Hauerwas, Stanley. Resident Aliens. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1989, 56.

Personal Prayer:
God, help me to bear the burdens of others with grace and strength. Teach me to reflect Christ's care in every relationship. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Australia, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. Lord, also bless all of those in Australia who generously support the work of Global Mission Partners. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life as they empower the next generation of Indigenous Christian leaders.

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Day 12 – Friday, 11 December 2026
Love for Creation

Scripture:
Psalm 24:1 (NIV) — "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

Reflection:
Sally McFague invites us to see creation itself as the body of God. Love extends beyond human relationships to care for the earth. To love God is to protect God's world, cherishing every creature as sacred.

Quote:
Sally McFague: "To love God is to love the world God loves."

McFague, Sally. The Body of God. 1993, 112.

Personal Prayer:
Creator God, open my eyes to your presence in all creation, that I may love and protect it. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Vietnam, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. Thank you for renewing our partnership with the Churches of Christ in Vietnam and for appointing Pastor Bin. May your love flow through the congregations in Vietnam, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life.

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Day 13 – Saturday, 12 December 2026
Healing and Restoration

Scripture:
Psalm 147:3 (NIV) — "He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds."

Reflection:
God's healing is both spiritual and tangible. Our mission partnership brings practical care alongside spiritual restoration, honouring the dignity of every person.

Quote:
Jürgen Moltmann: "Hope is the force that moves the church toward God's promised future of wholeness for all creation."

Moltmann, Jürgen. Theology of Hope. London: SCM Press, 1967, 95.

Personal Prayer:
Jesus, heal broken hearts and use me to bring wholeness to those in need. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in South Sudan, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life through their peace projects.

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Day 14 – Sunday, 13 December 2026
Rest and Renewal

Scripture:
Matthew 11:28 (NIV) — "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened."

Reflection:
Jesus invites us into rest and renewal. Discipleship includes self-care so that we can sustainably serve those who suffer.

Quote:
Thomas Merton: "Silence is the language of God; it heals, renews, and restores the weary soul."

Merton, Thomas. New Seeds of Contemplation. New York: New Directions, 1961, 142.

Personal Prayer:
Lord, renew my spirit so I may serve with love and strength. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Bangladesh, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. They know what it means to experience oppression; please give them your rest. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life.

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Day 15 – Monday, 14 December 2026
Hope Sustains

Scripture:
Romans 15:13 (NIV) — "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace."

Reflection:
Hope is the foundation of mission. As we trust God, we are filled with joy that sustains us and peace that transforms communities.

Quote:
N.T. Wright: "Hope is grounded in God's past faithfulness and God's promised future."

Wright, N.T. Simply Jesus. London: SPCK, 2011, 112.

Personal Prayer:
God of hope, fill me to overflow with joy and peace to share. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Indonesia, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through the staff and students as they live, study and serve together, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life.

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Day 16 – Tuesday, 15 December 2026
Love Amid Tragedy

Scripture:
Romans 8:38–39 (NIV) — "Nothing… will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Reflection:
Scottish theologian, Donald MacKinnon, reminds us Donald MacKinnon reminds us of the tragic nature of life—brokenness, injustice, loss. Yet love is not absent here. It enters tragedy and remains steadfast. God's love never denies suffering but carries us through it.

Quote:
Donald MacKinnon: "It is only through the acknowledgement of tragedy that the depth of love is understood."

MacKinnon, Donald. The Problem of Metaphysics. 1974, 141.

Personal Prayer:
Lord, hold me and all who suffer in your unbreakable love. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in the Philippines, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. There is a need for people to become self-sustained in mission.

May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life as they pursue employment opportunities alongside ministry.

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Day 17 – Wednesday, 16 December 2026
Love as Holiness

Scripture:
1 Peter 1:15–16 (NIV) — "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do."

Reflection:
P. T. Forsyth saw God's love not as sentimental but as holy. True love transforms us, pulling us into God's purity, courage, and sacrifice. Advent love is not weak—it is strong enough to redeem.

Quote:
P. T. Forsyth: "Love is not mere kindness, but holiness, for the consuming fire of God is love."

Forsyth, P. T. The Cruciality of the Cross. 1909, 89.

Personal Prayer:
Holy God, refine my love that it may reflect your holiness. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in India, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life to the blind community, including the children who accompany adults with blindness as they beg on trains.

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Day 18 – Thursday, 17 December 2026
Generosity and Sacrifice

Scripture:
Isaiah 58:10 (NIV) — "If you spend yourselves for the hungry, your light will rise."

Reflection:
Mission requires generosity and sacrifice. As we give of ourselves, we bring light to dark places and embody Christ's love.

Quote:
Mother Teresa: "Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do… but how much love we put in the action that counts."

Mother Teresa. Letters to the World. New York: Doubleday, 1996, 49.

Personal Prayer:
God, give me a generous heart willing to serve the needy and act in love. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Papua New Guinea, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life, especially when they gather for conferences and revival meetings in the villages.

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Day 19 – Friday, 18 December 2026
Reconciliation

Scripture:
2 Corinthians 5:19 (NIV) — “God was reconciling the world to Himself.”

Reflection:
Mission is reconciliation — restoring relationships between God, people, and creation. Discipleship calls us into this restorative work, guided by Christ’s love.

Quote:
Henri J. M. Nouwen: "Our task is reconciliation. Wherever we go we see divisions among people … These divisions are tragic reflections of our separation from God. The truth that all people belong together as members of one family under God is seldom visible. Our sacred task is to reveal that truth in the reality of everyday life.”

Henri J. M. Nouwen, “The Task of Reconciliation,” in The Henri Nouwen Website, accessed 2025.

Personal Prayer:
Lord, make me an agent of your reconciliation and peace. Help me bring your love into every relationship. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Thailand, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life through the activities at the evangelism centre, including prison ministry.

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Day 20 – Saturday, 19 December 2026
Presence in Dark Places

Scripture:
Psalm 23:4 (NIV) — "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil."

Reflection:
God's presence sustains us in challenging mission contexts. Fear fades as we trust in Emmanuel and follow Christ in service to others.

Quote:
Walter Brueggemann: "Faith is the courage to live in the shadow of God's promises, even when the path is dark."

Brueggemann, Walter. The Message of the Psalms. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984, 56.

Personal Prayer:
God, be my courage and comfort in every dark place I face. Help me bring hope where despair lingers. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Zimbabwe, the motorbike evangelists who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life. Keep them safe as they travel challenging roads and maintain their motorbikes.

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Day 21 – Sunday, 20 December 2026
Christlike Character

Scripture:
Colossians 3:12 (NIV) — "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

Reflection:
The character of Christ shapes disciples. These virtues empower us to live and serve well among the broken, demonstrating God's love in action.

Quote:
Hans Urs von Balthasar: "True love is always self-giving and embraces the beauty and suffering of others."

Balthasar, Hans Urs von. Love Alone is Credible. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2004, 87.

Personal Prayer:
Lord, clothe me with your character for faithful discipleship and love in action. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in the pacific, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life

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Day 22 – Monday, 21 December 2026
Light of the World

Scripture:
Matthew 5:14 (NIV) — "You are the light of the world."

Reflection:
As disciples, we are called to reflect Christ's light boldly and lovingly, showing his love through our actions.

Quote:
Jürgen Moltmann: "Hope is the light that shines in the dark corners of despair."

Moltmann, Jürgen. Theology of Hope. London: SCM Press, 1967, 122.

Personal Prayer:
Jesus, help me shine your light in every place I go. May my life reveal your love to all. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners in Australia, the leaders who faithfully serve, and the communities they walk alongside. Inspire the Indigenous Partnerships team as they provide opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous churches, leaders and individuals to learn more from one another. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life.

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Day 23 – Tuesday, 22 December 2026
Humility and Obedience

Scripture:
Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV) — "Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus…"

Reflection:
Jesus' humility and obedience define true discipleship and mission. Following His example invites us to serve sacrificially and with love.

Quote:
Stanley Hauerwas: "Christian community is formed when we submit our lives to God's guidance in loving service."

Hauerwas, Stanley. The Peaceable Kingdom. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1983, 75.

Personal Prayer:
Lord, shape my heart to mirror your humility and love. May I serve others as first demonstrated by Christ. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of our Global Mission Partners in Vanuatu—the leaders who faithfully serve and the communities they walk alongside, sustain the churches and continue to provide opportunities for the local leaders to access training. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life.

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Day 24 – Wednesday, 23 December 2026
Proclaiming Good News

Scripture:
Luke 2:10-11 (NIV) — "I bring you good news… a Saviour has been born."

Reflection:
Christmas is the celebration of Emmanuel — God who comes to heal, restore, and dwell with us. We join in proclaiming this good news to the world through acts of love.

Quote:
N.T. Wright: "The gospel is the story of God's triumph over suffering and death, offering hope for the world."

Wright, N.T. Simply Jesus. London: SPCK, 2011, 95.

Personal Prayer:
Thank you, God, for your incarnate love. Help me live and serve in the light of Emmanuel. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless the work of Global Mission Partners across the globe—from Australia, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea—to Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines—from India and Bangladesh—to South Sudan and Zimbabwe. We pray for all of the Christian leaders who faithfully serve in these countries, and the communities they walk alongside. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life.

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Day 25 – Thursday, 24 December 2026
Emmanuel: God With Us

Scripture:
John 1:14 (NIV) — "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us…"

1 John 4:7a, 9,12 (NIV) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God… This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world… No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Reflection:
The incarnation is God's ultimate act of solidarity — God chooses to dwell among us, fully human, fully present with our suffering. This is the love we celebrate and emulate this Christmas through our actions.

Quote:
N. T. Wright: "The coming of Jesus at Christmas is the ultimate sign that God has stepped into the story of the world to make all things new. He comes among us, Immanuel, to bring justice, mercy, and peace."

N. T. Wright, Simply Jesus: A New Vision of Who He Was, What He Did, and Why He Matters (New York: HarperOne, 2011), p. 97.

Personal Prayer:
Lord, help me embody your love this Christmas. May I walk with the broken, serve with joy, and bring hope where despair lingers. Amen.

Prayer for our Partners:
Lord, bless all of those in Australia who generously support and pray for the work of Global Mission Partners. May your love flow through them, bringing hope, healing, and renewed life.

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