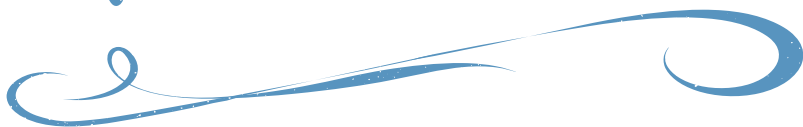


The **WEIGHT**  
of **WAITING**



**DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**

**ADULT EDITION**

 **RIVERSIDE**  
CHURCH

This cover has been designed using resources from Freepik.com

Riversiders,

As we wrap up the series on “*Give careful thought to your ways,*” hopefully we’ve all had weeks to marinate our minds and hearts on how we can be mindful of the ways that we are living and ordering our days. I know that, thankfully, the Holy Spirit has brought this principle to mind over and over these past weeks as I’ve thought through decisions, choices, spending, and a variety of other issues. Giving careful thought will hopefully permeate us as brothers and sisters together for the rest of our days.

As we head into December and into the season of Advent, it’s easy to be swept away with all the plans of Christmas, family times, food, and gifts. But this season also is full of emotions, pain, and loss for many of us. Let’s carry our intentional thought into this season as well. Let’s invite the Holy Spirit to breathe His insight, healing, and joyful anticipation into our hearts.

**Advent is a season of waiting.** Most of us hate the word *wait*. It’s right alongside the word *patience*. Many of us are in waiting seasons right now.

- Will we be able to have children?
- Will reconciliation ever come?
- Will my children follow the Lord faithfully?
- Will the cancer stay at bay?
- Will anyone really love and accept me?

Many times we wait, not knowing the outcome, but trusting in a good God who holds our times and seasons.

*(Continued on the next page...)*



But during Advent we wait expectantly because we know we will celebrate the Savior's birth. We've read the end of the story. The Israelites had not. The people that the prophets write to could not imagine what we take as fact.

During an incredibly painful time in life which also coincided with the month of December, I remarked to a friend that I could not imagine celebrating. The pain was searing. They remarked that December was the perfect season for me to walk through with the Lord. I was waiting in a situation that I had no control over. God was calling me to hope. To wait. To hope. It had Advent written all over it. Those words changed me.

### **Advent. Wait. Hope.**

Let's walk through this season with each other and with the one we know as Savior.

Keith

Pastor/elder



The devotional is available electronically on our website:  
**[riversidecommunity.org](http://riversidecommunity.org)**

Additionally, you can receive the devotional daily  
via email by subscribing at:  
**<http://riverside.church/devo>**

# WEEK 1

SUNDAY (12/1/19) - SERMON NOTES

## MONDAY (12/2/19)

Yesterday we heard Adam preach through passages in Jeremiah and Zechariah: How Israel looked forward to the Messiah and the hope that He would bring. We, during Advent, look backwards to remember the hope that He brought as well as the hope He will bring in the future. Life is hard. Yes, life is hard. This month in our devotions we are going to work through the Old Testament book of Isaiah.

- We see God judging His people.
- We see God mourning that He has to judge.
- We see Him promise a future for them.
- We see his compassion.
- We will see how we live in the now and the not yet.

Watch this video from **The Bible Project**.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0A6Uchb1F8>

We will watch the overview of the end of Isaiah later, but the first few weeks we will be in this beginning section. Basically, Isaiah is sent by God to warn the people of impending judgment, first by the nation of Assyria, and then by the Babylonians. The chapters cycle back and forth between warning, explanation of their sins, the coming judgment, and the hope of a promised Messiah.

Spend some time sitting and asking the Lord to help you order the days of this Advent season.

As we work through Isaiah this month, there may be verses and chapters that are just downright confusing. **Bible Gateway** has a great commentary to help with those:


 <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/matthew-henry/Isaiah>




# TUESDAY (12/3/19)

## Read Isaiah 1

(Check out the commentary listed previously if parts are confusing.)

 Why is God angry from what you read in this chapter? List out His grievances.

 Phrases like “I will turn my hand against you (vs. 25), “you will be ashamed because...(vs. 29), and “woe to the sinful nation...they have forsaken the Lord (vs. 4) , show a depth of emotion from God that can make us uncomfortable. How do you feel reading this chapter? What is it stirring up in you?

 Spend some time talking to the Lord about how you are feeling.



# WEDNESDAY (12/4/19)

## Read Isaiah 2

② Two verses really stood out to me: Isaiah 2:1 and Isaiah 2:22 (beginning and end). Where have you felt abandoned in your life—perhaps in the past or in this present season?

② In what ways can you see that you have abandoned the Lord?

② In what areas of your life are you “trusting in humans” instead of trusting in the Lord?

② What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying to you today?



## THURSDAY (12/5/19)

*Remember to sit quietly before reading and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and lead you.*

 **Read Isaiah 3:1-4:1**

 Explain the situation facing the people of Judah and Jerusalem.

② In verse 12, Isaiah tells them that their guides have led them astray. This is a theme in both Isaiah and Jeremiah. Who is your “guide”?


② How can you ensure that you have a guide who is leading you towards the Lord and not a “blind guide” that Jesus condemns in Matthew 15 and 23.

## FRIDAY (12/6/19)

 Read Isaiah 4:2-6

② In light of chapter 3, what emotions come up in you as you read this short section?

② Despite the Lord's just anger, what does this say about how the Lord really feels about His people?

 He promises that His glory will be like a canopy creating a refuge and hiding place for His people. Sit for a while picturing yourself under this shade, experiencing His hiding place, experiencing His refuge. If you are a visual person, draw the images that have come through your mind as you have sat quietly.

All throughout Isaiah there are verses about the coming Messiah that have inspired many songs. During the next five weeks together in this devotional, we are going to listen to several renditions of the song *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. Many of the lyrics come directly from chapters that we will read. Despite all the sins of the Israelites that were going to result in captivity, He offered them hope. Their longing for Messiah is reflected poignantly throughout this song. Take a listen:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sd3D8WcQlho>

## SATURDAY (12/7/19)

Look back over the reading from this week.

❓ Why was there mourning in Israel?

❓ Why was God mourning yet also executing judgment?

❓ Where is there mourning in your life right now?


❓ What does it look like to lament and grieve the people or situations that you listed above?


🕒 Spend some time crying out to the Lord for the pain that is there in your heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to be your comforter.

## SUNDAY (12/8/19)

 Read Micah 5 & 6.

*There is sorrow and promise here. The **now** and the **not yet**.*

 Sit quietly and spend some time meditating, reflecting, pondering the verses that spoke to you or popped out to you.

 Ask the Lord to speak to you through all the portions of the service upcoming today.

# WEEK 2

SUNDAY (12/8/19) - SERMON NOTES

## MONDAY (12/9/19)

Yesterday we heard Adam and Keith share about joy on the backside of redemption, joy tested by the real junk in life. This week we will look at more of that tension through the lens of the book of Isaiah. If you didn't get a chance last week to watch **The Bible Project's** summary of the book, flip back and check it out. As we consider our ways this week let's sit long and deep exploring with Jesus our hurts, disappointments, and grief and trust Him for joy on the backside.

 **Read Isaiah 5: 1-7**

- ② How do these verses describe God's relationship with His people, the Israelites, from your understanding?
  
- ② When God is looking for good fruit in our lives, what is He looking for? (See Galatians 5:22-26.)

 **Read James 3:9-12 and Matthew 12:33-37**


- ② What can be an indicator for us of the kind of fruit we are producing according to these verses?
  
- ① Spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to show you fruit in your life- good and bad.

## TUESDAY (12/10/19)

 **Read Isaiah 5:8-30**

② What exactly is bringing “woe” and exile to the people? What have they done?

② As you reflect on these verses, combined with the words spoken Sunday, what kinds of feelings are being stirred up in you?

 Spend some time writing some reflections on how you are feeling today.



# WEDNESDAY (12/11/19)


## Read Isaiah 7

Today we see the first stanza of **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** from Isaiah 7:14.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

 What are the areas of captivity you see in your life?

 Can you relate to being lonely and mourning? Write out how that looks and feels in your daily experience:

 Take those experiences to the Lord today.



## EMMANUEL OR IMMANUEL?

The King James Version of the Bible uses the spelling Emmanuel. The English Standard Version and others (e.g., NASB, NLT, NKJV, HCSB, NIV) use the spelling Immanuel. The New English Translation employs both spellings, Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14) and Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23). So, which spelling is correct? Well, to be fair, there really is no “right” way to transliterate words from one alphabet to another.

The process of transliteration is all about getting the sounds into the other language, and both spellings, Immanuel and Emmanuel, allow us to pronounce the original word correctly. But still, why the difference in spelling? And why would the NET Bible use both spellings? The answer lies in the languages behind the English translations.

The Old Testament is written in Hebrew (and some Aramaic), and the New Testament is written in Greek. The Hebrew for Immanuel looks like this: אֱלֹהֵי אִמָּנוּעֵל. Reading right-to-left, the first letter “ע” (Ayin) is silent (with a vowel point beneath it) and typically gets transliterated as an “I.” So, the English transliteration of the Hebrew word usually looks like Immanuel.

The Greek transliteration of אֱלֹהֵי אִמָּנוּעֵל looks like this: Ἐμμανουήλ. Do you see the “E” (Epsilon) in there? The Gospel of Matthew has Ἐμμανουήλ present in Matthew 1:23. Epsilons often come over to English as “E’s.” Now, knowing the Greek and Hebrew background, we have our answer.

*Quoted from a sermon at Immanuel Church*

## THURSDAY (12/12/19)

 Read 2 Chronicles 28 and 2 Kings 16

② What do you learn about Ahaz from these chapters, what kind of man/king was he?

② What do you learn about God from these chapters?

② What does it say about God's character that despite Ahaz's response, He proclaims, "I will give you my own sign"?





## WHY TWO DIFFERENT BOOKS?

It's always been interesting to me that the books of Kings & Chronicles are so similar! Why have two different books? (Originally 1 and 2 Kings was one large book - the same with Chronicles and Samuel). Here are some reasons that I have found:

- Samuel and Kings was written during the Babylonian Exile (a great thing to web search if you've never read about it).
- Chronicles was written after the exile was over, *about 100 years later*.
- Samuel and Kings addresses primarily the hard hearted state of the Israelites, explaining that their exile was a result of their own sinful abandonment of God.
- Chronicles works to inspire hope to the Israelites following this devastating experience, and turn them back to worship of God.
- Chronicles focuses heavily on David and Solomon and often has a more positive view of even the most wicked kings.
- Chronicles also focuses mostly on the kings of Judah, the house of David, rather than the kings of Israel. (More interesting reading is on how the Kingdom divided after the reign of Solomon!)

## FRIDAY (12/13/19)

 Read Isaiah 8

 Write out verse 17.

① What is your heart waiting on the Lord for today?

② How hard has it been to put your trust in Him as you wait?

③ Have you spoken to Him in specifics about what you are waiting for?

④ Spend some time right now being very specific with Him about what you are waiting for and asking Him to help you grow in trust of Him.



## SATURDAY (12/14/19)

Wednesday we looked at the first stanza of our song. We focused the questions on the *now* of their experience: captivity, loneliness and exile. But can you see the *now* and the *not yet*?

The first verse says:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.*


Despite their current circumstances, they (and we), are called to rejoice. Last month we read in Philippians 4 the command to *rejoice always in the Lord*.

Keith gave us a definition of contentment a few weeks ago: learning to not be determined by my external circumstances.

Contentment in the *now*, joy in the *now*, as we look towards the *not yet*.


- 🕒 Spend some time listening to your favorite worship song. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring a spirit of praise to your soul.

## SUNDAY (12/15/19)

 Sit quietly and spend some time meditating, reflecting, pondering the verses that spoke to you or popped out to you from this past week.

Listen to this version of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGw0QK6ICZA>

 Ask the Lord to speak to you through all the portions of the service upcoming today.

# WEEK 3

SUNDAY (12/15/19) - SERMON NOTES



## MONDAY (12/16/19)

Yesterday we heard Adam share about the violence that surrounds us in the world. Violence gives birth to more violence. And how, in the midst of that, God gave birth to peace. God offers us peace with the threat of violence all around us. To us a child was given.

This week as we continue our journey through Isaiah, we will again see the promise given to the Israelites in the midst of incredible hardship, violence, and pain. We will see God offering us as well as them a promise.

### **Read Isaiah 9: 1-7**

*Imagine Isaiah speaking these verses to a broken people. We are a broken people. Allow these words to wash over you.*

- ② What do you remember standing out to you from the sermon yesterday?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ② Where do you see the contrast in these verses between light/dark; joy/sadness; now/not yet?

*Continued on the next page...*



## MONDAY CONTINUED... (12/16/19)

- ② Are there places in your life right now where you feel burdened and held captive that you want to see the Lord remove that yoke (see verse 4)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ② Of the four descriptors of God in verse 6, which one stands out to you in this season of life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ⌚ Spend some time praying and reflecting on these character qualities of God.


## TUESDAY (12/17/19)

One of the verses in **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** finds its inspiration in **Isaiah 9:2** and **Revelation 22:16**. It goes like this:

*O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.*


In **Isaiah 9:7**, we read that His kingdom will establish righteousness and justice. Justice. Great light.

 Today, write out all the areas of injustice you see around you. Write also injustice in your own life, ways that you have been wronged.

*Continued on the next page...*



## TUESDAY CONTINUED... (12/17/19)

 Write out a prayer to the Lord of how you would like to see Him move in these areas and bring justice and righteousness. Really spend some time seeking Him, leaning into His presence. He sees the injustice, He sees you.

# WEDNESDAY (12/18/19)

## Read Isaiah 11

Today we are going to return to the Know, Be, Do practice. Though it may be heavily focused on the “know”, I love this study tool.

**KNOW** (what does the text say about God?)

**BE** (What does the text say about us?)

**DO** (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

## THURSDAY (12/19/19)

Tradition says that two verses from our hymn springs from **Isaiah 11:1-3 & 11:10**.

*O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave*


*O come, Thou Wisdom from on high  
And order all things, far and nigh  
To us the path of knowledge show  
And cause us in her ways to go*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

All over scripture, God tells us to ask for wisdom. In **Isaiah 11:2**, we see that Jesus, the promised Messiah, will have the Spirit of Wisdom.

❓ Where do you lack wisdom? Where do you need wisdom?

❓ Who are the people or places you go to find wisdom?

 Spend some time praying right now. Pray on your knees if you are able. I find that posture matters a lot in my mindset as I pray. When I get down on my knees, I know immediately that I am in the humble, asking position. I need wisdom. I need guidance. I need help. And I'm seeking it from the Father, from the Spirit. Cry out your need.

## FRIDAY (12/20/19)


Today we are going to return to the vineyard. In chapter 5, we saw a beautiful vineyard that God had tended and sung over.


### Read Isaiah 27

Remember, the Lord has loved, warned, sent the prophets to warn, and offered promises of hope.

Let's look at three things from this chapter and list out the verse references for each.

 Words and phrases that convey God's feelings for His people:

 Why they are being judged:

 A promised hope:


## SATURDAY (12/21/19)

Again today we are going to look at the continued sin and rebellion of the Israelites, and hopefully relate it to our own lives.


 **Read Isaiah 28:1-19 & 29:13-16**

Write out again the three topics we covered yesterday.

 Words and phrases that convey God's feelings for His people:

 Why they are being judged:

 A promised hope:

-  Stop, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you ways that:
- You resent God's guidelines seeing them as pointless rules?
  - You honor Him only with your lips but not with your life?





## SUNDAY (12/22/19)


Listen again this morning to another rendition of *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPHh3nMMu-I>

Reflect on all the characteristics you saw in the chapters from this week.

 Sit quietly this morning. Try to just sit with the Lord without thought or agenda for several minutes- just enjoy His presence and know that He is enjoying you.

 Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare you to hear from His word and His messenger this morning.

 Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a soft and teachable heart.

# WEEK 4


SUNDAY (12/22/19) - SERMON NOTES

## MONDAY (12/23/19)

Yesterday we heard Adam and Keith share from a passage called the *Magnificat of Mary*. Isn't it amazing to think of the Jewish people at long last receiving their promised Messiah? We read and read in Isaiah so far how they strayed, how the Lord pursued them, how He promised to bring them a Savior. And at last He arrives, unexpectedly as a helpless baby. Let's finish reading the chapter that Adam started yesterday.

### Read Luke 1:67-80

- ② What kinds of phrases do you recognize in Zechariah's praises that he surely learned as a student of the Old Testament as he served at the temple?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ② As we head into Christmas week, what is heavy on your heart? Are there family situations that will be difficult? Will there be more pain this week than celebration?

 Ask the Lord to give your heart praise where there doesn't seem to be any.

*Continued on the next page...*

## MONDAY CONTINUED... (12/23/19)

This week we are going to start into the second section of Isaiah, chapters 40-66.

Isaiah 39 ends with the Israelites being carried off to captivity in Babylon. Jeremiah then begins a message of hope to the exiles and beyond. Interestingly much of what is written is from a future vantage point.

Listen to the Bible Project summary here:


 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_TzdEPuqgQg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TzdEPuqgQg)


## TUESDAY (12/24/19) CHRISTMAS EVE


As the exile ended and the people returned, many had lost faith in God, believing that God had neglected them and allowed them to be captured. They still did not see that it was their own disobedience and rebellion that brought punishment from God.

They seem to be accusing God in Isaiah 40:27 of being disregarded by God. Again God explains who He is and what He has provided for them.

 **Read Isaiah 40**

 How does God answer their complaint?

 How does God describe Himself throughout this chapter? Of His characteristics, what are you most in need of today?

 Spend some time praying and preparing your heart to welcome the promised Messiah tomorrow.

# WEDNESDAY (12/25/19) CHRISTMAS DAY

## Merry Christmas!

Today begins the expanse of time often referred to as *The 12 Days of Christmas* - the time from Christmas Day until the 6th of January. This day is referred to as Epiphany (see the box at the bottom of this page).

Today, reflect on the miracle of Jesus becoming like us in our humanity, so that we might have the opportunity to become like Him.

Throughout these next days, we will have inserted into the devos small reminders related to Epiphany. Just like we've celebrated Christmas this whole month, let's continue the mindfulness.



## EPIPHANY

Excerpts taken from *Living the Christian Year* by Bobby Gross.

“Three events in the life of Christ are associated with the Feast of Epiphany: the visit of the Wise Men from the East, the baptism by John in the Jordan, and the turning of the water into wine at Cana. The theme of the season is ‘manifestation’- making what has been largely hidden more widely known. Similar to our mission given by Christ - to make Him known to the world around us.”

“The season of Epiphany extends until the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday- which marks the beginning of Lent. In our lives, as we discover more about Jesus, as we come to know Him more fully, we are then given the opportunity to share that information. Jesus says that He is the light of the world. He also tells us that we are the light of the world.”

As we finish this set of devotions and end the official Christmas season, we will head into a series of studies in the gospels. We will take the season of Epiphany to study through the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). We will examine Christ's life from the vantage point of these men that knew Him well. Then during Lent we will settle into the Gospel of John.



# THURSDAY (12/26/19)

## Read Isaiah 42

I am excited to do the Know, Be, Do in this chapter. It seems to have some incredible descriptions of God, and also explains His desires for His followers (at that time, the Israelites - but now - us)

**KNOW** (what does the text say about God?)

**BE** (What does the text say about us?)

**DO** (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:




## FRIDAY (12/27/19)

### Read Isaiah 43:1-10

Personalize these verses - write them out inserting your name like God is speaking directly to you. You can write your own, or use this model from the student version (I like the student version!)

\_\_\_\_\_, the Lord created you. He formed  
you \_\_\_\_\_. He says, “ \_\_\_\_\_  
do not be afraid.” \_\_\_\_\_, you belong to Me.  
\_\_\_\_\_, I will always be with you. No matter what  
happens in your life, \_\_\_\_\_, I will be right with  
you. \_\_\_\_\_, you are priceless to me. I love you  
\_\_\_\_\_. I honor you \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_, I created you because it brings me glory and  
praise. I have chosen you \_\_\_\_\_. I have chosen you,  
\_\_\_\_\_ so that you will know Me and trust Me.


Speak this aloud over yourself and spend some time thinking about how He sees you.

-  How does it make you feel to know that you are priceless and honored in His sight?

## SATURDAY (12/28/19)

We are going to sit in those same verses from **Isaiah 43**. If you didn't write them out in a personalized way yesterday, take time to do it now:

② What are the waters, rivers, and fire in your life right now?

 Express your feelings to God knowing that He walks through those alongside of us? It seems like we are guaranteed painful and hard time, but we do not walk alone.

② In the past, how have you seen Him walk alongside of you?

## SUNDAY (12/29/19)

🎵 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkvYR4BcHYc>

Again, we listen.

② Christmas is past. How are you feeling?

② As you prepare your heart for worship, what things can you be thankful for from this past week? I find that listing out these words of thanks gives me perspective and balance when mingled in with the hard.



# WEEK 5

SUNDAY (12/29/19) - SERMON NOTES

## MONDAY (12/30/19)

As the year of 2019 winds down, we will also wind down in Isaiah. I am trying to make a practice of “remembering”. In a November sermon, Keith said, “If I want to be increasingly conformed to His likeness, I must practice remembering *who He is* and *what He has done*.”

Therefore, along with our scripture reading, I also want to pose a question to prompt us to remember. Let’s become practiced in the remembering discipline.

Ultimately, if the Israelites had made a practice of remembering who God was to them, as well as all He had done for them, perhaps the exile would have been unnecessary. I want to know Him and walk daily in the light of knowing Him. Remembering is crucial to that.

### Read Isaiah 44

- ② In verse 23 he calls them to “remember these things.” What are the things he wants them to recall?

*Continued on the next page...*



## MONDAY CONTINUED... (12/30/19)

- ② What are the potential idols in your life today- what gets your best time, money, energy and efforts?
  
- ② How can you determine whether or not they are idols to you?



### REFLECTION OF THE YEAR

As you think back over the past year, what are you most proud of?

Keith spoke this Fall on Galatians 6:4 “Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else.”

# TUESDAY (12/31/19) NEW YEARS EVE

 Read Isaiah 48:12-22

**KNOW** (what does the text say about God?)

**BE** (What does the text say about us?)

**DO** (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:



## REFLECTION OF THE YEAR

As you end this year, what are a couple things you would like to do differently next year?

Spend some time thinking about what it would take to make them happen.



## WEDNESDAY (1/1/20) NEW YEARS DAY

 Read Isaiah 54

② What is the hope held out in this chapter?

② To whom is he offering hope?

② In a culture where marriage and children were everything, how does this chapter speak solace and comfort to the single person and the childless person?

② How does knowing the God who offers this sort of comfort encourage you ?



### REFLECTION OF THE YEAR

As you think back over the past year, what are you most proud of?

Keith spoke this Fall on Galatians 6:4, “Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else.”



# THURSDAY (1/2/20)

 Read Isaiah 55

**KNOW** (what does the text say about God?)

**BE** (What does the text say about us?)

**DO** (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

*Continued on the next page...*



## THURSDAY CONTINUED... (1/2/20)

Last month, Keith spoke on **Philippians 2:5**, “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.” From **Isaiah 55:9** we know that His thoughts are higher than ours.

- ② In what relationship(s) do you need His wisdom, His mindset, His perspective?



### REFLECTION OF THE YEAR

As you enter 2020, what are you most fearing?

Take this right now to the Lord in prayer.

## FRIDAY (1/3/20)

### Read Isaiah 61

**KNOW** (what does the text say about God?)

**BE** (What does the text say about us?)

**DO** (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

- ② What are the 'ruins' in your life? Reflect on how the Lord has begun to restore some of your 'ruins'?



### REFLECTION OF THE YEAR

Where have you seen the Lord grow you this year?

How has pruning been involved in that? What fruit (Galatians 6) can you rejoice in as you see it spring up in your life?

## SATURDAY (1/4/20)

In the spirit of remembering, let's look back at the first two weeks of this Advent series. Let's mine the scriptures we've read, the ideas that the Holy Spirit has impressed upon us, and the resolves we have made.

Read through your answers, ask the Holy Spirit to make His word come alive in your heart.

### **In the first two weeks of reading:**

② What stood out to you about who God is?

② What stood out to you about what God has done or is doing?

③ What did you learn about yourself?



## SUNDAY (1/5/20)

We will end this series by reviewing weeks three and four. And by listening one last time to *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (or twice if you try both!):

🎵 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTsCC0hwL5g>


🎵 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-UEb2mQ\\_c4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-UEb2mQ_c4)

**In weeks three and four of reading:**

❓ What stood out to you about who God is?

❓ What stood out to you about what God has done or is doing?

② What did you learn about yourself?

 Spend some time praying and preparing your heart quietly for our gathering time this morning.



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**Know. Be. Do...** *Together*

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