

"The word Advent comes from the Latin word, adventus, which means "coming" or "arrival." It is a period of excited waiting as we prepare for the arrival of our Savior. Long before the advent of Advent, God's chosen people waited for their Messiah, Gentiles waited for access to the One, True, God, the unwelcome and unwanted longed for inclusion into the family of God. Today, we wait too, for Jesus to return and His Kingdom of Heaven to be fully realized. We wait for other things as well, for the healing of a loved one, for the feeling of being enough, for the restoration of a relationship, for answers, for a plan, for recognition, for acceptance, for joy, for peace. We all wait for something, but how do we wait? To reverently wait on God is to entrust ourselves to His perfect care, to apply faith in the midst of unchanging circumstances, and to eagerly anticipate future realities which God is orchestrating. As we wait, we allow the Lord to speak, to focus us on eternal things, to reveal our idols, to reorient our eyes and hearts on Him. Advent is a perfect time to practice hopeful, faithful, joyful waiting as we anticipate our Savior's birth."

#### 11/28

Romans 13:11-14 "Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires."

Father, you have given us your Spirit whose desire is to transform us that we might bring your love, mercy, forgiveness, and grace to the world. Help us to be changed into your likeness this season. Amen.

#### 11/29

1 Corinthians 3-9 "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him with all speech and all knowledge- even as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

Lord, you are ever faithful. We read about it your Word. We experience it in our lives. Help us to lean not on our own abilities or gifts but to trust in you alone. Amen.

#### 11/30

Mark 13:33-37 "Take heed, watch; 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 servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Watch therefore--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Watch."

Lord, we still wait for you. We wait for Christ's second coming. We wait for you to right what is wrong with this world. For many of us, this season of Advent is a difficult one. We wait for you to alleviate our pain, our hurt. While we wait, we trust in you, your plan, your providence, your faithfulness. Blessed are you, O Lord. Amen.

#### 12/1

John 1:1-5 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Lord, you've been present with us since the beginning. Through you, all things were made. Draw us to worship today, reflecting on the blessing of your creation. Amen.

#### 12/2

John 1:6-9 "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world."

Father, You are the light, the true light, that enlightens every man. Help us rest in you this season. Amen.

### 12/3

Jeremiah 33:14-16 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring forth for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness."

Lord, we are so blessed by your faithfulness. When you say you will do something, you do it. We can place our hope in your words because you are trustworthy. May we rest in the peace only you bring. Amen.

#### 12/4

Isaiah 60:19-22 "The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended. Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land for ever, the shoot of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified. The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it."

Lord, it's hard to imagine a world where sin does not obstruct our relationship with you. We can barely imagine what it feels like to be able to look into your face without shame or guilt. In you, through you, we are forgiven people, welcomed to approach your throne. Thank you, our Savior, our Lord. Amen.

#### 12/5

Romans 15:4-13 "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise thee among the Gentiles, and sing to thy name"; and again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and further Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, he who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Lord Jesus, through your payment for sin, you have welcomed all into your family. In you, we are all chosen if we but receive your mercy and grace. In you, we are welcomed to participate in the work you are already doing in our world. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

#### 12/6

Psalm 43:3-6 "Oh send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead me, let them bring me to thy holy hill and to thy dwelling! Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and I

will praise thee with the lyre, O God, my God. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God."

Lord, joy is often a word we hear during this season, but this can be a difficult time for some of us. Loss, loneliness, financial stress, and busyness can cloud our minds, but remind us that you are with us, regardless of what we are going through. We praise you for our hope is in you. Amen.

#### 12/7

Psalm 27:1-4 "A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me, uttering slanders against me, my adversaries and foes, they shall stumble and fall. Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple."

Lord, in You and you alone, do we find our confidence, strength, peace, and joy. Point our eyes to you regardless of what we are facing in this season. Amen.

### 12/8

119:105-106 "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe thy righteous ordinances."

Lord, you light the way we are to go, empower us by your Spirit to live as you created us to live. May we be reminded that we wear your name. We are to embody your love, mercy, grace, and faithfulness on this planet. Father, we humbly submit ourselves, our lives to you. Guide us, Lord. Amen.

### 12/9

John 12:35-36 "Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said this, he departed and hid himself from them."

Jesus, you are our light, our life, our Savior, our King. In you, we can no longer walk in darkness. Illuminate the areas of our lives that we need to turn over to you. Shine your light on the sinfulness in our lives. Give us humility to be able to repent authentically to you and those impacted by our sin. Help us to live as sons and daughters. Amen.

#### 12/10

Ephesians 5:6-14 "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for it is because of these things that the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them, for once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light."

Lord, this started with crazy realities like a virgin teenager giving birth to the God of the Universe. It looked crazy to the world then, and our lives lived as evidence of the Gospel should continue to look crazy to the watching world. Help us, Lord, to live into what we profess to believe. Amen.

#### 12/11

1 Peter 2:5-9 "and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and he who believes in him will not be put to shame." To you therefore who believe, he is precious, but for those who do not believe, "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner," and "A stone that will make men stumble, a rock that will make them fall"; for they stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

Father, we are your Temple, filled with your Spirit, empowered and called to do your work. May we live lives that reflect that increasingly every single day. Amen.

#### 12/12

Isaiah 60:1-3. "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."

Lord, sometimes it feels like this world is getting increasingly dark. Remind us that this is not so. You are transforming thousands, millions of hearts every day. We overcome the darkness when we live into your light. You have overcome this world, and while the darkness may cry out, while it might seem like it louder than ever before, remind us that these are wails of defeat. Satan knows he has lost. Help us never to forget that our Savior is victorious! Amen.

### 12/13

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

Lord, we receive your Word and are transformed in light of it. It is what we confess, what we profess, but it isn't about us. With words and actions, what we preach is not of ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord of our own lives. May we light the night as people empowered and transformed by your lifegiving, light-giving Spirit. Amen.

#### 12/14

1 John 1:4-7 "And we are writing this that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If

we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

Lord, our active pursuit of holiness, of living in your light, builds bridges of friendship, of deep relationship with one another. True, biblical fellowship cannot occur unless we actively pursue you, pursuing to be changed and transformed by you. Help us, O Lord, see this season as an opportunity to reorient our eyes toward you and be blessed by the community that brings with one another. Amen.

#### 12/15

John 3:16-21 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God."

Lord, you came, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved. We must merely believe and live in light of that belief as we live as your adopted children. Help us, Father, to love you more than our sinful darkness. Amen.

#### 12/16

Isaiah 40:1-11 "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

Lord, we lift our voices, our finances, our time, our abilities, our gifts, our very lives to you. Amen.

John 9:1-7 "As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

Lord, you have cleansed our eyes. You have given us the ability to see. What this culture values-acceptance, achievement, accounterments, will not satisfy. They tempt us still, but our hearts' desire is you. May we live as people with an eternal focus. Amen.

#### 12/18

Luke 3:1-6 "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiber'i-us Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturae'a and Trachoni'tis, and Lysa'ni-as tetrarch of Abilene, in the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness; and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Lord, in some strange way, we too are preparing a way for your second coming. We get to be the heralds that proclaim your coming with our voices and with our lives! How blessed we are! May we take seriously this high, holy calling! Praise your name! Amen.

### 12/19

"Isaiah 11:1-10 "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; him shall the nations seek, and his dwellings shall be glorious."

Lord, how often do we have to be reminded that our treasure is not yet in this world? It is coming, with you. Help us not to get lost focusing on the silly things that we think will satisfy when all we need is you. Amen.

#### 12/20

Zephaniah 3:14-17 "Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has cast out your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear evil no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."

Lord, the thought of you rejoicing over us, singing over us as you renew us in your love is more than we can bear! What a profound love you have for us! Thank you, Father! Amen.

#### 12/21

Matthew 1:18-25 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus."

Lord, it is unfathomable that the Creator of the Universe would come as a child, humbled in deep affection for His creation. You came to be with us, to guide, teach, model, and ultimately save us. Let the reality of this Gospel truth weigh on us this season and make us feel just how much our God loves us. Amen.

#### 12/22

Luke 2:8-20 "And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this

child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

Lord, to the unwanted, the rejected, those alienated, your coming was the most fantastic news in the history of the universe. Lord, we were all unwanted by this world, rejected due to our sin, and alienated from our God, but we are reunited into your family through you. Glory to God in the Highest Heaven! Amen.

#### 12/23

Matthew 4:14-16 "...that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles--the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

Lord, we were in darkness, and we have been brought into the light. A new day has dawned! Our Savior is born! Praise the Lord! Amen.

#### 12/24

Isaiah 2:1- 5 "The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD."

Jesus, your coming has changed the world. It has saved the world. We live in light of the new world you have ushered in and will come into its fullness in the future. We bask in your light but look forward to the horizon, the coming fullness of your Kingdom. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

#### 12/25

Luke 2:25-33 "Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him;"

The good news of the Gospel, of the coming, living, dying, resurrecting Savior of the world, is good news for all people, Gentile and Jewish. Every person around our tables today, every people in every

community are people, created in your image and deeply loved by you. Remind us of this reality, and may we celebrate your birth this day and every day until you return, at which time we will celebrate with all people of all tongues and tribes- praising you with all that we are, in every language. Merry Christmas. Amen.

### 12/26

Ephesians 4:22-24 "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Lord, as we prepare our hearts for the coming new year, we submit ourselves to you. Quiet our minds, our anxieties. Help us to breathe and hear your desires for 2022. Amen.

#### 12/27

Deuteronomy 7:13 "He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land- your grain, new wine and olive oil- the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you."

Father, all we have is because you are a generous God who loves to bless His children. As we begin to imagine where you might call us in the new year, help us not to hold tightly to the blessings you give or pursue after that which you have not called us. Help our desires to be your desires. Amen.

#### 12/28

Proverbs 23:18 "There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."

Lord, our hope is only in you. Help guide us away from pursuits that are of this world- the perfect weight, the ideal 401K, the American Dream, the position or possession that we have convinced ourselves will be our gateway to joy, happiness, or peace. You are all we need. All we desire. Reorient our lives in light of this reality, Lord. Amen.

### 12/29

Isaiah 40:30-31 "Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Lord, we don't know what this new year brings, but what we do know is that in you, if our pursuits are after the things that you call us to, your Spirit will carry us, and we will not go on our own strength. We may stumble. We may fall, but our strength will be renewed. Keep our focus on you. Amen.

### 12/30

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

Lord, we are new creations in you. It isn't about what we will be, but what we are in you. Remind us that as your adopted children, our lives are to live into the new reality of our new birth in you. How can we increasingly live into this reality in 2022? Guide us, Father. Amen.

#### 12/31

Psalm 98:1 "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right and his holy arm have worked salvation for him."

Lord, make praise a part of our new year resolutions. Help us plan and prioritize worship, rest in you, fellowship, prayer, biblical community as our brothers and sisters in the first century did. May this not be merely for our benefit but for the benefit of our communities and world. Transform us that we might be a transforming force of love in your world. Amen.

### 1/1

Isaiah 43:19 "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Lord, we dedicate this year to you. Whatever may come, may your will be done. We submit ourselves to you, our lives to you, our hearts and minds to you. Do with them what you will that your Kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.