THE CONFESSING ANGLICAN CHURCH



An Advent Journey of Renewal

Twenty-Eight Daily Meditations

ROOTED IN THE WORD
RENEWED AT THE TABLE
EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

WRITTEN BY

Bishop Bill Pezzutti

With the Commission on World Ministry and Christian Unity



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SCRIPTURE

Scripture readings are taken from the New International Version (NIV). Readers are encouraged to read each passage in full from their own Bible before turning to the meditation.

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Purpose of this Advent Devotional

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This twenty-eight-day devotional is written for anyone who wants to keep Advent with the whole of the Christian inheritance in hand — Scripture, Sacrament, and Spirit held together rather than chosen between. It was prepared within the Confessing Anglican Church, for its archdioceses, dioceses, parishes, clergy, and members, but nothing in it belongs to Anglicans alone. It asks only that you come to Advent as a participant rather than a spectator, to a faith that is ancient, orthodox, and joyfully whole-bodied — one that has nothing to prove and nothing to hide.

Its purpose is to lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ as we prepare to celebrate His first coming and anticipate His glorious return.

The devotional is built around three foundational streams of The Confessing Anglican Church spirituality:

> **Evangelical**: Our commitment to the authority of Holy Scripture, the Gospel of salvation, repentance, faith, and evangelism.

> **Sacramental**: Our commitment to the historic worship of the Church, Baptism, Holy Communion, the creeds, and the means of grace.

> **Charismatic**: Our commitment to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, prayer, holiness, renewal, and mission.

Each daily meditation includes:

- † A Scripture reading (NIV)
- † A reflection
- † Questions for personal or group discussion
- † A practical Advent application
- † A closing prayer

The meditations can be used individually, in family worship, clergy gatherings, parish Bible studies, or throughout the wider communion.

> **A SUGGESTED DAILY PRACTICE**
>
> Spend 15–20 minutes reading the Scripture, reflecting on the meditation, answering the questions, and praying.



WEEK ONE

Preparing Our Hearts

The Evangelical Stream — Returning to the Word of God

DAYS 1–7

The first week focuses on the authority of Scripture, repentance, faith, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Before we can prepare the way for the Lord in our churches and communities, we must allow Him to prepare our own hearts.

DAY 1

The Promise of the Coming King

Isaiah 9:1–7

KEY VERSE · ISAIAH 9:6

MEDITATION

Advent begins with a promise. Hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah announced that a child would be born who would bring hope to a broken world.

The prophet spoke to people living in darkness, uncertainty, and fear. Yet God promised that their darkness would not have the final word. A light was coming.

That light was Jesus Christ.

Today, our world continues to experience conflict, division, spiritual confusion, and uncertainty. People are searching for hope, but lasting hope cannot be found in political systems, financial security, or human achievement. Our hope is found in the coming King.

As a Church, we must never lose sight of the centrality of Jesus Christ. Our ministries, worship, traditions, and programs must all point toward Him.

Advent invites us to ask whether Christ truly occupies the center of our lives and our churches.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does the promise of Isaiah 9:6 mean to you personally?
2. Where do you see spiritual darkness in today's world?
3. How can our Anglican communion bring the light of Christ to our communities?
4. Is Jesus Christ truly at the center of our church's life and ministry?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Identify one person who needs encouragement and share with them the hope found in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son as the Light of the World. Help us to keep Jesus at the center of our lives and our churches. May His light shine through us into a world that desperately needs hope. Amen.

DAY 2

The Authority of God's Word

2 Timothy 3:14–17

KEY VERSE · 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

MEDITATION

The evangelical heritage of Anglicanism begins with a conviction that Holy Scripture is God's authoritative Word and the foundation for our faith and practice.

Paul reminds Timothy that Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

The Church does not stand above Scripture. Rather, the Church is called to live under its authority.

During Advent, we remember that the promises concerning Jesus Christ were revealed through the prophets and fulfilled in the coming of our Lord.

Our generation needs a Church that is confident in the Word of God. We must not reshape Scripture to accommodate the changing opinions of society. Instead, we must allow Scripture to shape our beliefs, our character, and our mission.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does it mean to believe that all Scripture is God-breathed?
2. How does Scripture shape your daily decisions?
3. Are our churches placing sufficient emphasis on biblical teaching?
4. How can we encourage the next generation to love and study God's Word?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Spend additional time reading one chapter of Scripture and ask God to show you how to apply it.

PRAYER

Lord, give us a renewed hunger for Your Word. May our communion remain faithful to the Scriptures, and may our lives demonstrate the truth we proclaim. Amen.

DAY 3

Repentance: Preparing the Way

Matthew 3:1–12

KEY VERSE · MATTHEW 3:3

MEDITATION

John the Baptist came with a clear message: Prepare the way for the Lord.

His message was not complicated. It was a call to repentance.

Repentance means more than feeling sorry for our sins. It means turning away from sin and turning toward God.

Advent is an appropriate time for spiritual examination. We can become so occupied with Christmas activities, church responsibilities, and daily pressures that we neglect our relationship with God.

John reminds us that preparing for Christ requires a willingness to change.

Our churches also need to hear this message. Spiritual renewal begins when God's people humble themselves, acknowledge their failures, and seek His forgiveness.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does genuine repentance mean?
2. Are there areas of your life where God is calling you to change?
3. Why is repentance essential to spiritual renewal?
4. How can our churches create an atmosphere where repentance and restoration are encouraged?

> **TODAY'S APPLICATION**
>
> Spend time in honest confession before God.

PRAYER

Merciful Father, search our hearts and reveal anything that separates us from You. Give us humble and repentant hearts. Prepare us to receive Christ with faith and obedience. Amen.

DAY 4

Salvation Through Jesus Christ

Luke 2:8–14

KEY VERSE · LUKE 2:11

MEDITATION

The angel's announcement to the shepherds was extraordinary: A Savior had been born.

The announcement was not that a great teacher had arrived, or that a political leader had appeared. The announcement was that God had sent a Savior.

The evangelical message is centered on the saving work of Jesus Christ. Through His incarnation, death, and resurrection, Christ accomplished what humanity could never accomplish for itself.

We are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Advent reminds us that Christmas is not simply about a baby in a manger. It is about the Savior who came to rescue us from sin and death.

The Church must never lose its passion for proclaiming this Good News.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to come as our Savior?
2. What does salvation by grace through faith mean?
3. Are we communicating the Gospel clearly to those outside the Church?
4. Who in your life needs to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ?

> **TODAY'S APPLICATION**
>
> Share your testimony of what Jesus Christ means to you with someone.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming into the world to save us. Renew our passion for the Gospel and give us courage to proclaim Your saving grace. Amen.

DAY 5

Faith and Trust in God's Promises

Luke 1:26–38

KEY VERSE · LUKE 1:38

MEDITATION

Mary received a message that would change her life forever. She was told that she would bear the Son of God.

Her response was one of faith and surrender: She was willing to trust God's promise even though she could not fully understand what lay ahead.

Faith is not the absence of questions. It is the willingness to trust God when we cannot see the entire picture.

Our communion faces opportunities and challenges. We must trust that God remains faithful and that His purposes will prevail.

Like Mary, we are called to respond to God's invitation with humility and obedience.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What can we learn from Mary's response to the angel?
2. Why is trust in God sometimes difficult?
3. What is God asking you to surrender to Him?
4. How can our communion demonstrate faith in God's promises?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Identify one concern you have been carrying and deliberately place it in God's hands through prayer.

PRAYER

Father, give us the faith of Mary, that we may trust Your promises and surrender ourselves to Your purposes. Let Your will be done in our lives and in Your Church. Amen.

DAY 6

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1–14

KEY VERSE · JOHN 1:14

MEDITATION

The incarnation is at the very heart of Christianity. The eternal Word of God became flesh and lived among us.

God did not remain distant from humanity. He entered our world, experienced human life, and revealed His glory through Jesus Christ.

This truth unites our evangelical and sacramental understanding of Christianity.

We proclaim the Word who became flesh, and we celebrate the visible signs of grace that Christ entrusted to His Church.

The incarnation also challenges us to bring the love of Christ into the practical realities of human life. We are called to serve, care, forgive, and love as Christ loved us.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does the incarnation teach us about God's love?
2. Why is the incarnation essential to Christian faith?
3. How does the incarnation inform our understanding of the Sacraments?
4. How can we demonstrate Christ's love in tangible ways?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Perform one act of practical kindness for someone who may feel forgotten.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, eternal Word of the Father, thank You for becoming flesh and dwelling among us. Help us to reflect Your love in everything we do. Amen.

DAY 7

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16–20

KEY VERSE · MATTHEW 28:19

MEDITATION

The coming of Christ was never intended to be a private blessing for a select few. Jesus came to save the world.

Before His ascension, He entrusted His followers with the Great Commission: Make disciples of all nations.

This is the mission of the Church.

Our evangelical heritage reminds us that the Gospel must be proclaimed. Our sacramental heritage reminds us that disciples are baptized into the life of the Church. Our charismatic heritage reminds us that Christ is with us through the Holy Spirit as we carry out His mission.

A Church that is not engaged in mission has lost sight of its calling.

Advent should renew our commitment to reach our communities and the nations with the Gospel.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What is the difference between making converts and making disciples?
2. How does the Great Commission apply to our Anglican communion?
3. What opportunities exist for mission in your local community?
4. How can we become more intentional about reaching the nations?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Pray for your parish's mission outreach and identify one practical way to participate.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, give us a renewed passion for the Great Commission. Empower our communion to make disciples, plant churches, and proclaim the Gospel throughout the world. Amen.



WEEK TWO

Renewing Our Sacramental Life

The Sacramental Stream — Rediscovering the Grace of God in Worship

DAYS 8–14

This week focuses on the historic worship and sacramental life of the Confessing Anglican Church. We remember that the Church is not simply an organization or gathering of believers. It is the Body of Christ, called to worship God, receive His grace, and live in fellowship with Him and one another.

DAY 8

The Gift of Baptism

Romans 6:1–11

KEY VERSE · ROMANS 6:4

MEDITATION

Baptism is one of the two Sacraments ordained by Christ in the Gospel. It signifies our incorporation into Christ and His Church.

In Baptism, we are reminded that our old life has been buried with Christ and that we are called to walk in newness of life.

Advent reminds us that Jesus came to bring new life to humanity. The child born in Bethlehem would grow to give His life on the Cross and rise again so that we might have eternal life.

Baptism is not merely a ceremony to be remembered on a special occasion. It reminds us of our identity and calling as followers of Jesus.

As Anglican Christians, we must help our congregations understand the meaning of Baptism and the responsibilities that accompany it.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does Romans 6 teach us about our identity in Christ?
2. Why is Baptism important in the life of the Church?
3. Are we living consistently with our baptismal promises?
4. How can we help families understand the importance of Christian discipleship following Baptism?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Remember your Baptism and give thanks for God's grace and your calling to follow Christ.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us into the fellowship of Christ through Baptism. Help us to live faithfully as Your children and to walk daily in the new life You have given us. Amen.

DAY 9

The Lord's Supper: Remembering Christ

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

KEY VERSE · 1 CORINTHIANS 11:26

MEDITATION

Holy Communion stands at the heart of Anglican worship.

When we gather at the Lord's Table, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, proclaim His death, and anticipate His return.

The Eucharist is not simply a religious custom or an opportunity to remember a historical event. It is a sacred gift given by Christ to His Church.

As Anglican Christians, we recognize the spiritual significance of receiving the bread and wine in obedience to Christ's command. We come in faith, repentance, thanksgiving, and expectation.

Advent gives Holy Communion an additional dimension. We remember the Christ who came, celebrate His presence among His people, and look forward to His coming again.

Every celebration of the Eucharist should renew our commitment to Christ and to one another.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does it mean to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes?
2. Why is Holy Communion central to Anglican worship?
3. How should we prepare ourselves before receiving Communion?
4. Does our participation at the Lord's Table strengthen our unity as Christ's Body?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Before your next celebration of Holy Communion, spend time in prayer, confession, and thanksgiving.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us the gift of Holy Communion. May we never approach Your Table carelessly, but with faith, gratitude, reverence, and love. Unite us as Your people. Amen.

DAY 10

Worship in Spirit and Truth

John 4:19–26

KEY VERSE · JOHN 4:24

MEDITATION

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that true worshipers must worship the Father in Spirit and in truth.

This teaching has particular significance for us as the Confessing Anglican Church.

We have inherited a rich tradition of liturgy, Scripture readings, prayers, creeds, hymns, and Sacraments. These are valuable expressions of the historic Christian faith.

But our worship must never become merely external.

The words we speak must reflect the devotion of our hearts. Our liturgical practices must lead us into a deeper relationship with God.

The charismatic stream reminds us that worship must be alive to the presence and work of the Holy Spirit.

The evangelical stream reminds us that our worship must be grounded in biblical truth.

The sacramental stream reminds us that our worship is shaped by the historic faith and the gifts Christ entrusted to His Church.

Together, these streams offer a rich and balanced expression of Christian worship.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does it mean to worship in Spirit and truth?
2. How can liturgy become routine rather than meaningful worship?
3. How can the Holy Spirit deepen our experience of corporate worship?
4. What can we do to encourage greater participation in worship?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Attend worship this week with a renewed sense of expectation and intentional participation.

PRAYER

Father, forgive us when our worship becomes routine. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and help us worship You with sincere hearts and lives grounded in Your truth. Amen.

DAY 11

The Church: The Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12–27

KEY VERSE · 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

MEDITATION

The Church is more than a collection of buildings, dioceses, clergy, and congregations. It is the Body of Christ.

Every believer has a place and a purpose. Every ministry matters. Every member has something to contribute to the life of the Church.

Paul teaches that the body has many parts, yet all belong together.

This is an important message for our Anglican communion. We may have different gifts, ministries, personalities, and expressions of worship, but we share one Lord and one faith.

The evangelical, sacramental, and charismatic streams should not divide us. They should enrich our common life.

We need biblical teachers, faithful priests, compassionate deacons, gifted evangelists, intercessors, worship leaders, and faithful laypeople.

No one ministry can fulfill the mission of the Church alone.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does it mean to be part of the Body of Christ?
2. Why does the Church need different spiritual gifts and ministries?
3. Are we encouraging all members to discover their gifts?
4. What can we do to strengthen unity across our communion?

> **TODAY'S APPLICATION**
>
> Encourage someone in your congregation who faithfully serves the Church.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for making us members of Your Body. Help us value one another, serve together, and remain united in the mission You have entrusted to us. Amen.

DAY 12

The Creeds: Confessing the Historic Faith

Jude 1:3–4

KEY VERSE · JUDE 1:3

MEDITATION

The Confessing Anglican Church stands within the historic and apostolic Christian faith.

The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed are not simply traditional statements recited during worship. They summarize the essential truths of the Christian faith.

They proclaim our belief in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They affirm the incarnation, the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Church, forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life.

In an age of theological confusion, the Church must remain faithful to the faith once entrusted to God's people.

Advent reminds us of the central truth of the incarnation: Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man.

Our Anglican identity must remain firmly connected to the historic Christian faith.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Why are the historic creeds important to the Church?
2. What does the Nicene Creed teach us about Jesus Christ?
3. How can the Church preserve sound doctrine for future generations?
4. Are we teaching our members to understand what they confess each Sunday?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Read the Nicene Creed slowly and prayerfully. Reflect on each statement of faith.

PRAYER

Almighty God, thank You for the faith handed down through the apostles. Keep us faithful to the truth of the Gospel and help us pass the historic Christian faith to future generations. Amen.

DAY 13

The Communion of Saints

Hebrews 12:1–3

KEY VERSE · HEBREWS 12:1

MEDITATION

The Christian faith is not an individual journey undertaken in isolation. We belong to a people of God extending across generations and throughout the world.

Hebrews reminds us of the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us.

We are encouraged by the faithfulness of those who served Christ before us: the apostles, martyrs, reformers, missionaries, pastors, and faithful Christians whose lives bore witness to the Gospel.

As Anglicans, we inherit a rich history of faithful Christian witness.

Yet the communion of saints also reminds us that our responsibility is to pass the faith to those who will follow us.

We are not simply preserving the past. We are preparing the Church for the future.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Who has influenced your Christian faith and spiritual journey?
2. What can we learn from the faithful witnesses of previous generations?
3. How are we preparing the next generation of Christian leaders?
4. What legacy of faith do we want to leave behind?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Thank God for someone who helped you grow in faith and consider encouraging someone younger in their Christian journey.

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for the faithful witnesses who have gone before us. Help us run our race with perseverance and leave a legacy of faith for generations to come. Amen.

DAY 14

The Eucharist and the Coming Kingdom

Revelation 19:6–9

KEY VERSE · REVELATION 19:9

MEDITATION

The Eucharist looks backward to the Cross, recognizes Christ's presence with His people, and looks forward to the fulfillment of God's Kingdom.

Revelation describes the marriage supper of the Lamb, a glorious picture of the final celebration of Christ and His redeemed people.

Every celebration of Holy Communion reminds us that our present worship is a foretaste of the heavenly worship to come.

We gather at the Lord's Table as a people who belong to the coming Kingdom.

This gives our worship both reverence and joy.

We do not come to the Table because we have earned God's favor. We come because Christ has invited us and because His grace is sufficient.

As we journey through Advent, may we develop a deeper longing for the day when faith becomes sight and Christ gathers His people together forever.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does the marriage supper of the Lamb teach us about our future hope?
2. How does Holy Communion point us toward the coming Kingdom?
3. How should this hope affect our daily lives?
4. Are our churches communicating the hope of Christ's return?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Give thanks for the hope of eternal life and pray for someone who has lost hope.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for inviting us to Your Table and promising us a place in Your eternal Kingdom. Keep us faithful as we await Your glorious return. Amen.



WEEK THREE

Renewing Our Life in the Holy Spirit

The Charismatic Stream — Empowered for Holiness, Prayer, and Mission

DAYS 15–21

The third week focuses on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Advent is a wonderful reminder that the Holy Spirit was active in preparing the world for Christ's first coming.

We are called to be a Spirit-filled people, grounded in Scripture, shaped by the Sacraments, and empowered for the mission of God.

DAY 15

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Luke 1:26–35

KEY VERSE · LUKE 1:35

MEDITATION

The story of the incarnation is inseparable from the work of the Holy Spirit.

When the angel announced the birth of Jesus to Mary, he declared that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and that the power of the Most High would overshadow her.

The coming of Christ was a divine work accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The same Spirit continues to work in the Church today.

We must not think of the Holy Spirit as simply a doctrine to be studied or a subject to be discussed. He is the third Person of the Holy Trinity, fully God, who dwells in and empowers the people of God.

Our communion needs to rediscover the importance of depending upon the Holy Spirit in every aspect of ministry.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does the announcement to Mary teach us about the Holy Spirit?
2. Why is the Holy Spirit essential to the life of the Church?
3. Are we depending upon the Spirit in our ministry and decision-making?
4. How can we encourage a greater awareness of the Holy Spirit in our parishes?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Begin the day by asking the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, words, and actions.

PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit. Fill our hearts with the presence of Christ. Guide our communion into truth, holiness, and faithful service. Amen.

DAY 16

The Holy Spirit and the Fruit of Holiness

Galatians 5:16–26

KEY VERSE · GALATIANS 5:22–23

MEDITATION

A Spirit-filled Christian is not simply someone who has experienced an emotional moment or exercised a spiritual gift.

The evidence of the Holy Spirit's work must also be seen in the character of our lives.

Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

These qualities reflect the character of Jesus Christ.

We must be careful not to measure spiritual maturity only by visible activity, church attendance, theological knowledge, or ministry positions.

The real question is whether we are becoming more like Jesus.

As we prepare for Christmas, let us ask the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts and make us people of Christian character.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Which fruit of the Spirit is most evident in your life?
2. Which area of your character needs greater transformation?
3. Why must spiritual gifts be accompanied by Christian character?
4. How can our clergy and congregations model the fruit of the Spirit?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Choose one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit and intentionally practice it today.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, transform us into the likeness of Christ. Produce in us the fruit of holiness and help us demonstrate Your love to everyone we encounter. Amen.

DAY 17

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

KEY VERSE · 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7

MEDITATION

God has given spiritual gifts to His people for the building up of the Church.

Paul identifies gifts including wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation.

These gifts are not given for personal recognition or spiritual competition. They are given for the common good.

The Confessing Anglican Church should be both biblically grounded and open to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit.

We must test spiritual expressions according to Scripture, exercise discernment, and ensure that everything builds up the Body of Christ.

We should neither dismiss the gifts of the Spirit nor accept every spiritual claim without biblical examination.

Our desire should be to glorify Christ and strengthen His Church.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Why does God give spiritual gifts to the Church?
2. What does Paul mean by the common good?
3. How should spiritual gifts be tested and exercised?
4. Are we creating opportunities for people to discover and develop their spiritual gifts?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Pray that God will reveal how you can use your gifts to serve others.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Help us exercise them with humility, love, and biblical discernment for the strengthening of Your Church. Amen.

DAY 18

A Church Devoted to Prayer

Acts 2:42–47

KEY VERSE · ACTS 2:42

MEDITATION

The early Church was devoted to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.

These four characteristics provide a wonderful picture of the life of the Christian community.

The Church was not sustained by human organization alone. It was a community dependent upon God.

Prayer was central to its life.

Today, many churches have developed extensive programs, committees, and administrative structures. These can be useful, but they must never replace prayer.

The Confessing Anglican Church and its leaders need a renewed commitment to corporate prayer, intercession, and seeking God's direction.

Imagine what could happen if our parishes, dioceses, and archdiocese became communities devoted to prayer.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What were the four priorities of the early Church?
2. Why must prayer remain central to church life?
3. How can we strengthen corporate prayer in our congregations?
4. What would a communion-wide prayer movement look like?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Spend at least fifteen minutes praying for your parish, clergy, bishop, and the wider communion.

PRAYER

Lord, make us a praying Church. Teach us to depend upon You rather than our own strength. Renew our passion for prayer and unite us in seeking Your will. Amen.

DAY 19

Pentecost: Power for Witness

Acts 1:1–11; Acts 2:1–4

KEY VERSE · ACTS 1:8

MEDITATION

Before His ascension, Jesus promised His disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them.

The purpose of this power was clear: They were to become His witnesses.

At Pentecost, the promise was fulfilled. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, and the Gospel began to spread with extraordinary power.

The charismatic life of the Church must always be connected to mission.

The Holy Spirit does not empower us simply to make our worship more exciting. He empowers us to proclaim Jesus Christ, demonstrate His love, and make disciples.

The Confessing Anglican Church needs the boldness of Pentecost.

We need clergy who preach with conviction, people who share their faith, and congregations that reach beyond their walls.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Why did Jesus promise the disciples the power of the Holy Spirit?
2. What was the relationship between Pentecost and evangelism?
3. Where does our communion need greater boldness in witness?
4. How can the Holy Spirit empower you to share your faith?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Pray for one opportunity to witness to Christ today.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, give us the boldness of Pentecost. Empower our communion to proclaim Christ faithfully and to make disciples throughout the world. Amen.

DAY 20

The Holy Spirit and Unity

Ephesians 4:1–6

KEY VERSE · EPHESIANS 4:3

MEDITATION

The Holy Spirit calls the Church into unity.

Paul urges believers to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Unity does not mean that every congregation must look alike or that every believer must have identical gifts and personalities.

It means that we recognize our common identity in Christ and commit ourselves to loving one another.

The three streams of Anglican spirituality provide an opportunity for mutual enrichment.

Evangelicals can remind us of the authority of Scripture. Sacramental Christians can remind us of the richness of historic worship and the means of grace. Charismatics can remind us of the importance of spiritual vitality and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

Together, we can demonstrate the richness of the Christian faith.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What is the difference between unity and uniformity?
2. Why is unity important to the witness of the Church?
3. How can the three Anglican streams strengthen one another?
4. What divisions or misunderstandings need to be addressed in our communion?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Pray for a Christian congregation or leader with whom you have differences.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, unite us in the love of Christ. Help us to recognize our common faith and work together for the glory of God. Amen.

DAY 21

A Fresh Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Joel 2:28–32; Acts 2:14–21

KEY VERSE · JOEL 2:28

MEDITATION

The prophet Joel announced that God would pour out His Spirit on all people.

Peter identified the events of Pentecost as the fulfillment of this promise.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was not intended to be limited to one generation. The Church continues to need His presence, power, and renewal.

Throughout Christian history, seasons of spiritual awakening have often been accompanied by prayer, repentance, renewed biblical conviction, evangelism, and transformed lives.

Our church must not become satisfied with simply maintaining what previous generations have built.

We need fresh spiritual vitality.

We should pray for renewal among our clergy, our congregations, our families, and our communities.

But we must remember that genuine renewal always leads us toward Jesus Christ, deeper holiness, and greater faithfulness to Scripture.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What did Joel promise concerning the Holy Spirit?
2. What are some biblical characteristics of spiritual renewal?
3. Why should the Church continually seek God's renewal?
4. What would genuine spiritual awakening look like in your parish?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Set aside time to pray specifically for spiritual renewal throughout your communion.

PRAYER

Almighty God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon Your Church. Renew our hearts, revive our congregations, strengthen our clergy, and awaken our communities to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Amen.



WEEK FOUR

Living in Expectation

The Three Streams Together — Preparing for Christ's Return

DAYS 22–28

The final week brings together the Evangelical, Sacramental, and Charismatic streams. We consider our calling to holiness, mission, unity, and readiness for the return of Jesus Christ.

Advent reminds us that we live between Christ's first coming and His glorious return. We are called to be faithful, watchful, and actively engaged in His mission.

DAY 22

Be Holy, for I Am Holy

1 Peter 1:13–21

KEY VERSE · 1 PETER 1:15

MEDITATION

The Christian life is a call to holiness.

Peter reminds believers that they are called to be holy because God Himself is holy.

Holiness is not reserved for clergy, bishops, or particularly devoted Christians. It is the calling of every follower of Jesus Christ.

The Evangelical stream reminds us that we are transformed through faith in Christ and obedience to God's Word.

The Sacramental stream reminds us that we belong to Christ and are called to live out our baptismal identity.

The Charismatic stream reminds us that the Holy Spirit empowers us to grow in holiness and become more like Jesus.

Advent provides an opportunity to examine whether our lives reflect the character of Christ.

The Church's credibility depends not only upon what we teach but also upon how we live.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does holiness mean in everyday Christian life?
2. What areas of your life need to be surrendered to God?
3. How does the Holy Spirit help us grow in holiness?
4. Are our churches demonstrating holiness in their relationships and conduct?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Identify one habit or attitude that needs to change and ask God to help you address it.

PRAYER

Holy Father, make us a holy people. Cleanse our hearts, renew our minds, and empower us through Your Holy Spirit to live lives that honor Jesus Christ. Amen.

DAY 23

Loving One Another as Christ Loved Us

John 13:1–17, 34–35

KEY VERSE · JOHN 13:34

MEDITATION

Jesus gave His disciples a new commandment: Love one another as He had loved them.

He demonstrated this love by washing the disciples' feet, taking the position of a servant.

Christian leadership is therefore not about status, position, or authority alone. It is about service.

This is particularly important for those entrusted with leadership in the Confessing Anglican Church.

Archbishops, bishops, priests, deacons, and lay leaders are called to serve the people of God with humility and love.

Our evangelical convictions, sacramental life, and charismatic experiences must all be expressed through genuine Christian love.

A church may have excellent preaching, beautiful liturgy, and vibrant worship, but if it lacks love, it has missed the heart of Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet teach us about leadership?
2. How can we demonstrate Christ's love within our congregations?
3. Are our church relationships marked by forgiveness and humility?
4. How can our communion become a stronger witness of Christian love?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Look for an opportunity to serve someone without expecting recognition or reward.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, teach us to love as You loved us. Remove pride, resentment, and selfishness from our hearts. Make our communion a place where Your love is clearly seen. Amen.

DAY 24

The Church's Mission to the Nations

Acts 13:1–5

KEY VERSE · ACTS 13:2

MEDITATION

The early Church was a missionary Church.

In Acts 13, we see believers worshiping, fasting, and praying when the Holy Spirit directed them to set apart Barnabas and Saul for missionary work.

The mission of the Church was not simply an organizational decision. It was a response to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

This passage brings together all three streams of Anglican spirituality.

The Church was devoted to worship and the breaking of bread, grounded in the apostolic teaching, and responsive to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Our church must recover this missionary vision.

We are called to proclaim Christ in our own communities and throughout the nations. We must support evangelism, church planting, theological education, leadership development, and compassionate ministry.

The Gospel is for every nation, every generation, and every people.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What can we learn from the missionary calling of Barnabas and Saul?
2. Why were worship and prayer important to the mission of the early Church?
3. What mission opportunities exist within our communion?
4. How can each parish participate in the Great Commission?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Pray for missionaries and consider how your parish can support a mission effort.

PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, send workers into Your harvest field. Raise up missionaries, evangelists, church planters, and faithful Christian leaders. Make our communion a missionary people. Amen.

DAY 25

The Ministry of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:14–21

KEY VERSE · 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

MEDITATION

The coming of Jesus Christ was God's great act of reconciliation.

Through the Cross, God made a way for sinful humanity to be restored to relationship with Himself.

Paul reminds us that we have been entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation.

This means that the Church must proclaim the message of forgiveness and peace through Jesus Christ.

But reconciliation must also be reflected in our relationships with one another.

We live in a divided world. Families, communities, churches, and even Christian traditions experience conflict and separation.

The Confessing Anglican Church must model a different way.

We must be people who seek forgiveness, pursue peace, and demonstrate the reconciling love of Christ.

Advent reminds us that the Prince of Peace came into the world to reconcile us to God and to call us into a new relationship with one another.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does reconciliation through Christ mean?
2. Why is reconciliation essential to the Church's witness?
3. Are there relationships in your life that need healing?
4. How can our communion become an instrument of reconciliation among Christians?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Take a step toward restoring a relationship that has been damaged.

PRAYER

God of mercy, thank You for reconciling us to Yourself through Jesus Christ. Help us become ambassadors of reconciliation, extending forgiveness, peace, and love to those around us. Amen.

DAY 26

Watchfulness and the Return of Christ

Matthew 24:36–44

KEY VERSE · MATTHEW 24:42

MEDITATION

Advent directs our attention not only to the birth of Jesus but also to His promised return.

Jesus told His disciples to keep watch because they did not know the day or hour of His coming.

The Christian life is therefore one of expectation.

We are not called to speculate about dates or become preoccupied with predicting events. We are called to remain faithful, prepared, and spiritually alert.

The Evangelical stream reminds us to remain grounded in the promises of Scripture.

The Sacramental stream reminds us that Holy Communion proclaims Christ's death until He comes.

The Charismatic stream reminds us to remain attentive to the Holy Spirit and His work in the Church.

Our responsibility is to be faithful stewards of the Gospel until our Lord returns.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does it mean to live in expectation of Christ's return?
2. Why does Jesus emphasize watchfulness?
3. How should the promise of Christ's return influence our priorities?
4. Is our communion preparing people to live faithfully in anticipation of His coming?

> **TODAY'S APPLICATION**
>
> Consider whether your daily priorities reflect the eternal hope we have in Christ.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, keep us watchful and faithful as we await Your return. May we never become distracted from the work You have given us to do. Amen.

DAY 27

The New Heaven and the New Earth

Revelation 21:1–7

KEY VERSE · REVELATION 21:5

MEDITATION

The Christian story does not end with the Cross, the empty tomb, or even the ascension of Jesus.

It ends with the fulfillment of God's redemptive purposes and the renewal of all things.

John describes a new heaven and a new earth, where God will dwell with His people. There will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain.

This is the great hope of the Christian faith.

Advent reminds us that the child born in Bethlehem is the same Lord who will return in glory and establish His everlasting Kingdom.

Our work as a Church must always be shaped by this eternal perspective.

We proclaim the Gospel because people need salvation. We celebrate the Sacraments because Christ has given His Church these gifts. We seek the Holy Spirit because we need His power to live faithfully and serve the world.

Our hope is not in the success of our institutions but in the faithfulness of God.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does the promise of a new heaven and new earth mean to you?
2. How does this promise give hope in times of suffering?
3. How should the hope of eternity shape our mission today?
4. What does it mean to be a faithful Church until Christ returns?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Encourage someone who is having trouble by reminding them of God's promise of eternal life.

PRAYER

Eternal God, thank You for the promise that You will make all things new. Strengthen our faith, renew our hope, and keep us faithful until the day when we see You face to face. Amen.

DAY 28

Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:12–21

KEY VERSE · REVELATION 22:20

MEDITATION

We conclude our Advent journey with one of the most powerful prayers in all of Scripture:

"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

This is the prayer of a Church that knows its Savior, trusts His promises, and longs for His return.

Throughout these twenty-eight days, we have considered the three streams that contribute to the richness of Anglican spirituality.

We have been reminded that:

We must be Evangelical, firmly rooted in the authority of Holy Scripture, and committed to proclaiming the Gospel.

We must be Sacramental, grounded in the historic faith, devoted to worship, and nourished through the gifts Christ has given His Church.

We must be Charismatic, open to the work of the Holy Spirit, growing in holiness, exercising spiritual gifts, and empowered for mission.

These are not three separate destinations. They are three streams flowing into one common life in Jesus Christ.

As the Confessing Anglican Church, we must embrace this inheritance with confidence and humility.

We must be a Church that teaches the truth, celebrates the faith, seeks the Spirit, loves the people of God, and reaches the nations.

Our Advent journey must not end when Christmas arrives. It should become the beginning of a renewed commitment to Christ and His mission.

May the Lord find us faithful when He comes.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What has God taught you during this Advent journey?
2. Which of the three streams needs greater attention in your personal spiritual life?

3 How can your congregation become more faithful in Scripture, worship, and the work of the Holy Spirit?

4 What should our communion be doing differently as we prepare for the future?

5 What does it mean for you personally to pray, "Come, Lord Jesus"?

TODAY'S APPLICATION

Make a personal commitment to carry the lessons of Advent into the coming year. Identify one practical way to strengthen your life in the Word, the Sacraments, and the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God,

We thank You for walking with us through this Advent journey.

Thank You for Your Word, which guides and sustains us; for the Sacraments, through which You nourish Your people; and for the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to live faithfully and proclaim the Gospel.

Renew the Confessing Anglican Church and all Anglican Communions.

Make us faithful to the Scriptures, reverent in worship, devoted to prayer, and passionate about the mission of Jesus Christ.

Strengthen our archbishops, bishops, priests, deacons, and lay leaders. Bless our congregations, families, and ministries.

Raise up a new generation of Christian leaders who will proclaim the Gospel without compromise, serve the Church with humility, and carry the message of Christ to the nations.

May we be a people who live in expectation of Your coming, who serve faithfully in the present, and who look forward with joy to the fulfillment of Your Kingdom.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A FINAL ADVENT COMMITMENT

Our Advent Commitment

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At the conclusion of the twenty-eight days, I suggest that each congregation, diocese, and the wider communion affirm the following commitment together.

As a people of God, we commit ourselves to the following:

1. The Word of God — We will remain faithful to Holy Scripture as the authoritative foundation of our faith, doctrine, and practice, proclaiming a Gospel neither polluted nor diluted, and raising a public confession not of novelty but of fidelity.

2. The Sacraments — We will cherish the historic worship of the Church and faithfully celebrate the Sacraments instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, coming to the liturgy as participants and not as spectators, and receiving it as sustenance and not as background.

3. The Holy Spirit — We will seek the presence, gifts, fruit, and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, always under the authority of Scripture, holding what is evangelical, sacramental, and charismatic in us not as eclecticism but as catholic fullness.

4. Christian Unity — We will pursue unity in the Body of Christ, grounded in the historic Christian faith and expressed through love and mutual service, receiving our Anglican identity from history and from faithful global Anglicans, with nothing to prove and nothing to hide.

5. Mission and Evangelism — We will proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, plant churches, and participate in God's mission among all nations, remembering that the Church does not exist to serve us — we are the Church, and we exist to serve the world.

6. Holiness and Spiritual Renewal — We will seek lives of holiness, repentance, prayer, and spiritual renewal in our clergy, congregations, and families, knowing that every follower of Jesus is a minister and every minister needs a ministry, and that where serving is beneath us, leadership is beyond us.

Worship and ministry are one continuous act. May this Advent find us contributors and not consumers, participants and not spectators, in the ancient and living faith we have received.



DECLARATION OF THE CONFESSING ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rooted in the Word.
Renewed at the Table.
Empowered by the Spirit.
Living for the Glory of Christ.

THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNION

A Suggested Way to Use This Devotional

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SETTING	SUGGESTED USE
Archbishop	Introduce the devotional with an Advent pastoral letter
Diocesan bishops	Encourage participation across their dioceses
Rectors	Use daily readings in parish communications
Clergy	Gather weekly for prayer and reflection
Small groups	Discuss the four weekly themes
Families	Read the daily Scripture and prayer together
Individuals	Maintain a personal Advent prayer journal

> **A WORD TO THE CLERGY**
>
> Where this devotional is used across a parish or diocese, it is most fruitful when the daily reading is shared in common — in parish communications, at the weekly gathering of clergy for prayer, and in the home. What is read alone is a discipline; what is read together becomes the life of a congregation.



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THE CONFESSING ANGLICAN CHURCH
COMMISSION ON WORLD MINISTRY
AND CHRISTIAN UNITY