



EVERY
moment
HOLY

2023 ADVENT JOURNAL

We want to help you memorize a key passage that corresponds with the liturgy for each week. Through beautiful, modern designs, Dwell Differently helps with Scripture memorization in a simple, creative, and smart way.

This is how the Dwell Differently memory method works:

1. We start with a verse: “Peace I leave with you.” (John 14:27a).
2. Then we take the first letter of each word in the verse, and we string them together in a long line of letters:

PILWY J14.27A

3. We collect the letters and turn them into a beautiful Scripture design.



4. Every time you see the design, you're challenged to recall what each letter represents, and eventually you memorize the verse.

The image is intentionally designed to help you recall the message in the verse. So since this verse is about the peace of Christ, the image is a dove. That image then helps you recall the verse when you first memorize it, and also serves as a long-term memory prompt that's carved in your mind for later retrieval.

Every time you see the dove, you're reminded that this verse is about the peace of Christ.

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HOW TO USE THE ILLUSTRATIONS



DWELL
DIFFERENTLY.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:8-15

As we prepare our house for the coming Christmas season,
we would also prepare our hearts for the returning Christ.
You came once for your people,
O Lord, and you will come for us again.

Though there was no room at the inn
to receive you upon your first arrival,
We would prepare you room
 here in our hearts
 and here in our home,
Lord Christ.

As we decorate and celebrate, we do so to mark
the memory of your redemptive movement into
our broken world, O God.

Our glittering ornaments and Christmas trees,
Our festive carols, our sumptuous feasts—
By these small tokens we affirm
that something amazing has happened
in time and space—
that God, on a particular night,
in a particular place, so many years ago,
was born to us, an infant King, our Prince of Peace.

Our wreaths and ribbons and colored lights,
our giving of gifts, our parties with friends—
these have never been ends in themselves.
They are but small ways in which we repeat
that sounding joy first proclaimed by angels
in the skies near Bethlehem.

In view of such great tidings of love announced
to us, and to all people, how can we not be moved
to praise and celebration in this Christmas season?
As we decorate our tree, and as we
feast and laugh and sing together,
we are rehearsing our coming joy!
We are making ready to receive the one
who has already, with open arms, received us!
We would prepare you room
 here in our hearts
 and here in our home,
Lord Christ.

Now we celebrate your first coming, Immanuel,
even as we long for your return.
O Prince of Peace, our elder brother,
return soon. We miss you so!

Amen.

**EVERY MOMENT HOLY
ADVENT JOURNAL**

**WEEK 1
DECEMBER 3-9**

HOPE

BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO
THEM, "DON'T BE AFRAID,
FOR LOOK, I PROCLAIM
TO YOU GOOD NEWS OF
GREAT JOY THAT WILL BE
FOR ALL THE PEOPLE . . ."
—LUKE 2:10



RESPOND:

What does it look like for you to prepare your heart for the advent season?

How do you navigate the highs and the lows of a societal celebration in the daily rhythm of life?

How can you begin to set the table for the spiritual reverence of the coming weeks?

SCRIPTURE READING: John 15:9-13

O Great Giver of All Good Gifts,
I sit amongst rolls of wrapping paper,
tissue, bags, and bow—presents spread before
me, ready to be concealed in shrouds of joyful
mystery, and nestled for a time beneath the tree.

This brief veiling of gifts from
the wondering eyes of those
who will receive them
is an act intended to heighten
excitement, and to kindle hopes—hopes
that might find fulfillment when these
festive secrets are finally revealed.

And while these gifts might provide
a passing happiness, I pray
they would also stir the hearts of
their recipients in some deeper way,
as small echoes of a greater grace.

For you first lavished upon us your
astonishing love in the person of Jesus.

Indeed “We love, because God first loved us!”
In our giving of Christmas gifts we but seek
to imitate your generosity.

Christ, you are the gift of God
who gave all, gives all, is all.
So let these my small presents be offered
in great love, and received as humble
expressions of a holy hospitality, and
reminders of a divine kindness.

And may my own heart in particular
be kept less and less like a wrapped
and sealed mystery,
but be freely offered instead
as an open gift through which
the radiant love of Christ
is made ever more visible.

Amen.

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**WEEK 2
DECEMBER 10-16**

LOVE

**THIS IS MY COMMAND:
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I
HAVE LOVED YOU. NO ONE
HAS GREATER LOVE THAN
THIS: TO LAY DOWN HIS
LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.**

—JOHN 15:12-13



RESPOND:

We are compelled to give in this season, though it can often mean participating in a culture of nothing more than currency exchange and greed. And yet, it was not money that we were given as the greatest sign of love and redemption for our souls: it was sacrifice. How might examining Jesus' sacrifice inspire you to love others in this season of traditional giving?

When have you made sacrifices in the past that have led to your "joy being made complete?"

What practical ways can you be intentional with sacrificing yourself to show love in the coming weeks?

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2-3

O God from whose glad Trinity
all good fellowship flows,
my heart endures a slow, sad ache
across this holiday season.

While others gather merrily
with family and friends, I quail
at the specter of being alone.
Amidst these festive days
I feel the heightened pangs of isolation.

Yet, Lord, I know this to be true: You
draw near the broken. After all, are not
these hallowed days set aside to celebrate
your coming into this world to redeem,
restore, and make of us your children,
your heirs—your family?

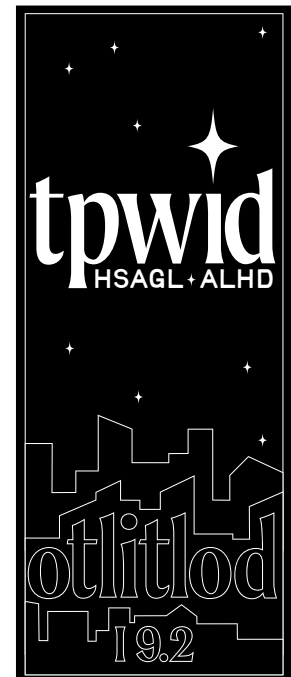
So sit with me, Lord, as I grieve my
present loneliness. Redeem this
season of looming sadness, and
awaken my heart to the deeper
joys of those bright tidings first
announced to humble shepherds
adrift in their own lonely watches
of night.

The prophet proclaimed: “The people
who sat in darkness have seen a great Light!”
And surely that darkness included such
loneliness as mine, a longing that only
you can wholly fill.

All praise to you, Emmanuel,
most merciful God,
 who came to us in flesh,
 who abides with us in Spirit,
 who will return to us in glory!

Amen.

THE PEOPLE WALKING IN
DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A
GREAT LIGHT; A LIGHT
HAS DAWNED ON THOSE
LIVING IN THE LAND OF
DARKNESS.
—ISAIAH 9:2



RESPOND:

Holidays often remind us of grief and the loss of those who cannot celebrate with us. But we have faith that God will reunite us again. Reflect on the losses you are grieving this week, and share with God what you miss in their absence.

How might God shine light on your loneliness?

SCRIPTURE READING: John 14:27

O God Who Did First Speak Light into Deep Darkness,
illumine and warm again our numbed hearts.

For we are increasingly wrung
by this tiring tide of night,
even as our hopes are wearied
by the long winter that attends it.

Have we not endured such seasons
of the spirit, when we do not feel
the warmth of your nearness? When
the light of your mercy is pale
and seems so far away? When we cry
to you and discern no sudden answer?

In such times we might have been tempted
even to abandon the main narrative
of our lives: The story of your
life-giving Spirit and your bright
kingdom ever on the move,
at work amongst us, in us, and through us,
training our hearts to yearn toward
the impending renewal of all things.

Still let us hold
fast in our hearts this secret:

We know that our conflict ends at last
in a final victory of light and delight,
in the City of God, where the
lamb is the light eternal.

Let us step into this fray, well-armed
with mirth and joy, buoyed by
the fellowship of friends,
or at least with a fond remembrance
of such things, and with the good hope
of their inevitable return.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU.

—JOHN 14:27A



RESPOND:

In the stillness of Christmas Eve, perhaps in the glow of a lit tree, consider what might be troubling your heart. The quick pace of the past weeks? The anxiety of being with so many people? The griefs you carry? List the things that threaten a the peace of Christ.

In the scripture reading, Jesus says, “I do not give to you as the world gives.” How have you seen God’s giving set apart from the giving of the world? And how might that encourage you toward accepting his peace?

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:6-7

Let us raise our glasses
to toast this turning of the tide,
this beginning of the victory of light.

Winter has done its worst. And by
your grace, O God, we are still standing.
This night marks not the victory of darkness,
but the far limit of its incursion, and from here,
like an army overrun, it will be pushed
back, rolled up day-by-day as the sun
draws nearer, warming the ground,

till trees bud, flowers bloom, and
birds return, and we pass again
into the green and golden
light of spring, our world
pregnant with the promise
of resurrection.

So let us assail this keep of winter,
with a sacrifice of conscious praise,
kindling joy inside its dark heart,
that we might find our own tired hearts
stirred again to holy flame, and our own
wearied souls roused to remembrance of—
and trust in—the long faithfulness of

that same God
who first spoke light into darkness,

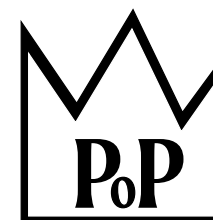
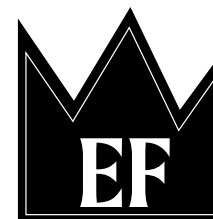
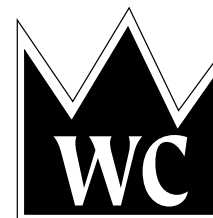
that same Spirit
who even now illumines our hearts and minds,

and that same Good Shepherd
who leads us through every long winter,
and into the budding fields and bright songs
of a world newly awakened.

Amen.

HE WILL BE NAMED
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR,
MIGHTY GOD,
ETERNAL FATHER, PRINCE
OF PEACE.

—ISAIAH 9:6B



RESPOND:

Joy to the world, the Lord has come, indeed.

Delight today in the coming of Christ as a human babe, to bear the weight of our brokenness and die for the sake of our souls.

Liturgies contained in this journal can be found in *Every Moment Holy*, Volumes I and III.

ABOUT

Books, audiobooks, individual liturgy downloads, prints, and more can be found at EVERYMOMENTHOLY.COM. Access all liturgies in the *Every Moment Holy* series through the IOS and Android app.

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The *Every Moment Holy* series of books by Douglas McKelvey and published by Rabbit Room Press brings new prayers and liturgies for the ordinary events of daily life. These prayers are ways of reminding us that our lives are shot through with sacred purpose even when, especially when, we are too busy or too caught up in our busyness to notice. Collectively, the *Every Moment Holy* series provides more than 300 prayers across three volumes.

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Co-founded by sisters Vera Schmitz and Natalie Abbott, Dwell Differently helps Christians memorize Scripture in a simple, creative, and smart way. Through monthly memberships featuring modern and beautiful designs, we help you memorize and meditate on one Bible verse every month. Since beginning in 2017, Dwell's monthly membership has helped tens of thousands of people memorize over 600,000 verses.

Use code **EVERYMOMENT** to try Dwell's monthly membership, and get your first month free! The membership can be found at: dwelldifferently.com/everymoment

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Glad AND Golden Hours

First Look

COMING FALL 2024 FROM RABBIT ROOM PRESS

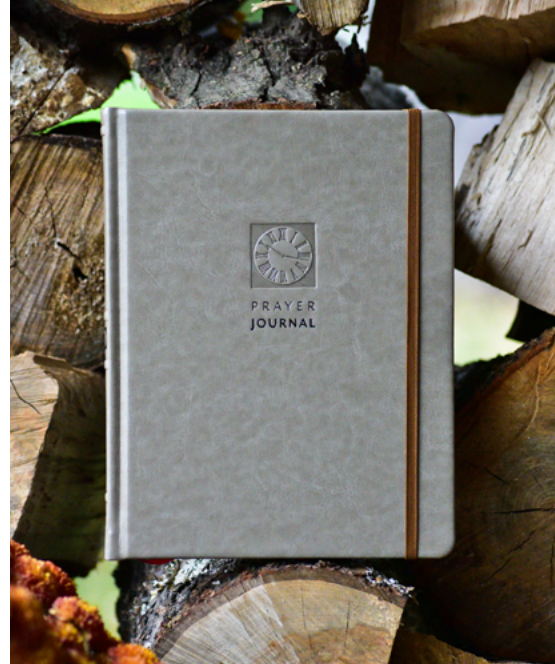
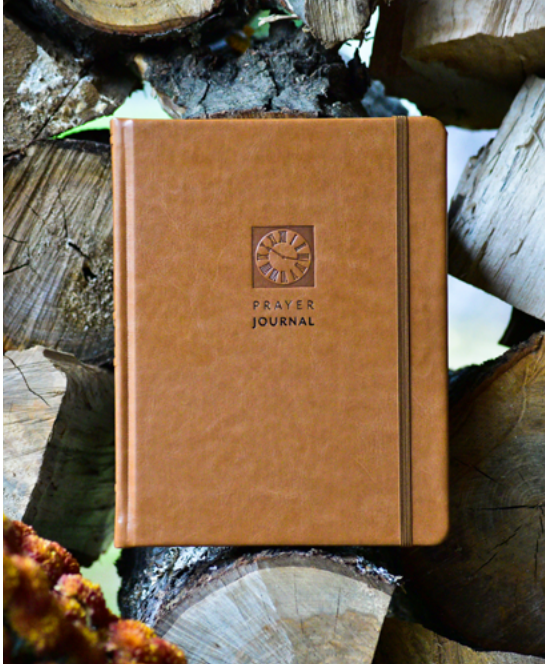
Tangible acts of feasting and celebrating have suffused Lanier Ivester's home all her life. But in the past decade, she's wrestled with profound losses that have reshaped the ways in which she approaches her calling to the place and the people around her. Coexisting forces of great grief and great joy come together in this extraordinary book (lavishly illustrated by Jennifer Trafton), which not only reminds us of the inescapable presence of sorrow, but shows us how to celebrate and anticipate the return of glad and golden hours right here, right now.

Like Robert Farrar Capon's *Supper of the Lamb*, this is a book that far surpasses the trappings of a mere cookbook or a collection of craft projects. It's an embodiment of a rich theology of creation, of what it means to be human when everything is both falling apart and coming back together. It's a companion that leads us through the seasons of Advent and Christmastide and into a better understanding of the Kingship of Christ and our invitation into the richness of the Feast to come.

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EVERY MOMENT HOLY PRAYER JOURNAL



COMING JANUARY 2024

DRAWING ON PRAYERS AVAILABLE in Douglas Kaine McKelvey's best-selling series, the *Every Moment Holy Prayer Journal* is a companion for developing your own personal rhythms of practicing the presence of God.

Comprised of **52 topical entries** that each include **readings from scripture**, **excerpts from *Every Moment Holy***, and **reflection prompts for personal response**, this journal is a way of reminding the heart and mind that our lives are shot through with sacred purpose in each and every moment.

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