

PRAYER & FASTING GUIDE

Wednesday, December 1st

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For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in [Jesus].

Colossians 1:19

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As we have wrapped up our recent teaching series, *God Is...*, and we now move into the Advent season, I find this excerpt from Colossians coming to mind. We've looked at the character of Yahweh — in Exodus he gives us a glimpse and we see him as all knowing, all powerful, compassionate, gracious, abounding in love, slow to anger, forgiving, just, and so much more.

In Colossians, we see Jesus described as “the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” (1:15) He is God the Son, and “he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (1:17) So all these attributes of God can be rightly applied to Jesus and therefore continue to reassure us of God's character.

Jesus, born as a helpless baby to a faithful Jewish woman, goes on to live the extraordinary, rather upside down life we see in the Gospels. Reaching the outcasts, the sick, the hurting. Knowing and speaking to the heart. His nature is that of God. He is all knowing and all powerful as he knows the heart and intentions of those he encounters, as he displays his power in healings and miracles. He is compassionate and gracious as he heals the lepers, welcomes the woman at the well, places value on the children around him, and more. His forgiveness is poured out in moments of healing, and ultimately on the gruesome cross as he takes our place and punishment. Every characteristic of Yahweh God can be found displayed in Christ because the very fullness of God came in Jesus...God sent us his very best.

As Advent draws us to looking back at Christ's birth and towards his second coming, we pray for his hope, peace, joy, and love to fill our hearts and world. The fullest hope, peace, joy, and love are found in Christ, just as the fullness of God dwells in him.

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REFLECTION AND PRAYER

For Yourself

- Where do I need Jesus to bring hope, peace, joy, or love to my life?
- Where do I struggle to believe that he can provide (hope, peace, joy, love)?
- Where have I seen his hope, peace, joy, or love poured out in my life?
- Jesus, thank you for bringing (hope, peace, joy, love) to my life. In the places I lack belief that you will bring transformation, will you increase my faith and pour out hope, peace, joy, and love? Help me to fix my eyes on you and anticipate the work you'll do, the (hope, peace, joy, and love) you'll bring, and your return one day. Amen.

Continued...



REFLECTION AND PRAYER

For Your Community

- Who do I know that needs the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus in their life?
- Jesus, because (person's name) is your child and you came once to save them, fill their mind, heart, and life with your (hope, peace, joy, love). Will you give (person's name) a glimpse of your heart for them and drawing their eyes with expectation to your second coming? Amen.

For Those Who Don't Know Jesus

- Who do I know that doesn't know Jesus or is far from him?
- Jesus, will you give (person's name) the ability to see you and know you as you really are, not as the world portrays you? Will you flood their life with hope, joy, peace, and love that can only come from you? Jesus, help me to love and serve (person's name) so that they can see your life displayed in me. Amen.

Take Action

- As those in your community or those who don't know Christ have come to mind, look for ways to encourage and/or serve them this holiday season! Write a card, spend time together, help with tasks, and continue to pray for them. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you seek to love and serve them!

For our holiday schedule & ways to be involved this Advent season, visit ethoschurch.org/advent.