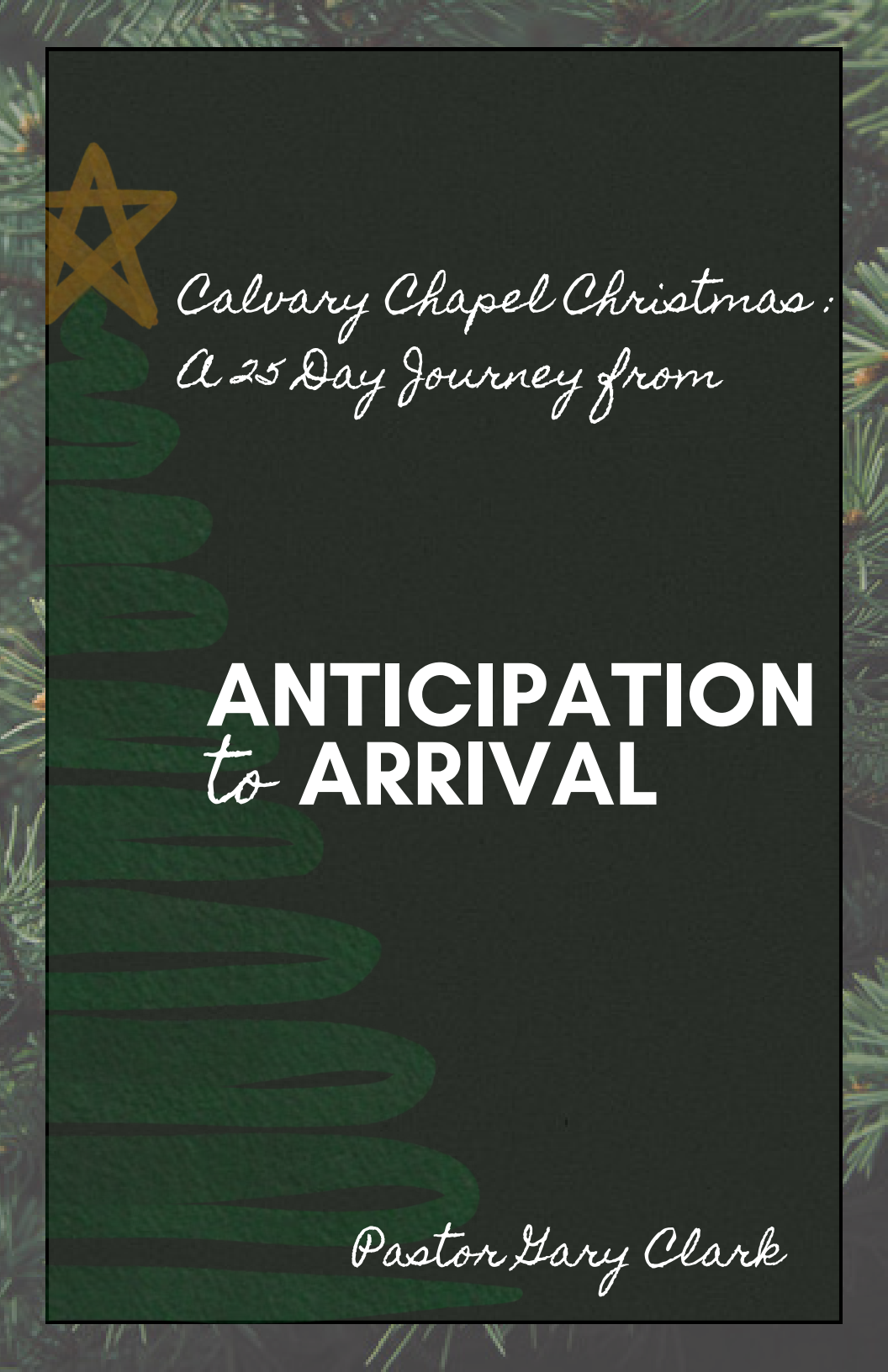




*Calvary Chapel Christmas:
A 25 Day Journey from*

ANTICIPATION
to **ARRIVAL**

Pastor Gary Clark

Dear Chapel Family,

A very Merry Christmas to you and yours!

As we step into this Christmas season, I just wanted to take a few moments to share something simple from my heart to yours. I know how active this time of year can get. Between work, family responsibilities, holiday events, and for many of you, serving faithfully here at CCGC — it's a lot. And I want to say how much I appreciate you. Your heart to serve and love others is such a blessing.

But with everything going on, it's easy to move through December in a blur and miss the deeper meaning of it all, the anticipation, the arrival, and the wonder of Jesus. That's why I created this devotional, it's not to give you one more thing to do, but to offer a few quiet minutes each day to slow down, breathe, and realize once again what really matters.

Each day in this journey you will find it includes: a short Scripture, a reflection, a journey prayer, a simple focus, and a question to help you think a little deeper. It's something you can do on your own, with your spouse, your kids, a friend, wherever and however it fits into your day.

My hope is that this 25-day journey helps you reconnect with the heart of Christmas. But, more importantly, that your days would be filled with more peace, more joy, and more of Jesus. Your home would feel His presence, and your worship of Him would be refreshed in a glorious and personal way.

So let's walk this journey together — from anticipation to arrival — with hearts that are open as well as our Bibles, and centered on Christ. He is the reason we celebrate. He is the gift we all need. And He is so worthy of our time and attention. So why not spare a few minutes a day?

With love and prayers for a Christ-filled Christmas,

Pastor Gary

December 1st



Scripture:

Isaiah 9:2 (NKJV)

'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.'

Reflection:

This is where our journey begins — with light breaking into darkness. Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah gave this promise: a great Light was coming. Can you imagine the anticipation? The hope that maybe, just maybe, the darkness wouldn't last forever? That's what this season is about — remembering that Jesus is the Light we've all been waiting for.

Reflective Question:

In what area of your life do you need to stand firm in the light of Christ, even when it's difficult?

Prayer for the Journey:

Lord, thank You for being the Light in our darkness. Help me to see Your light today and reflect it to those around me.

Daily Focus:

Take a moment to share with someone how Jesus has brought light into your life.

December 2nd



Scripture:

Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.'

Reflection:

This verse is packed with anticipation. For generations, God's people waited for this promise to come true — that God Himself would come and be with us. As we draw near to Christmas, we're reminded that anticipation is part of the beauty of the season. Waiting isn't wasted when we know Who we're waiting for.

Reflective Question:

What are you anticipating from God this Christmas, and how can you wait with hope?

Prayer for the Journey:

Lord, thank You for being the God who keeps His promises. As I wait and prepare my heart, fill me with faith and hope in Your perfect timing.

Daily Focus:

Take a few quiet minutes today to reflect on the promises of God that you're still waiting on — and trust that He is faithful.

December 3rd

Scripture:

Micah 5:2 (NLT)

'But you, O Bethlehem... yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past.'

Reflection:

Bethlehem wasn't a big or important town, but God chose it for the arrival of the King. That's often how He works — using small places, quiet moments, and humble hearts. As we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, let's remember that He still shows up in unexpected ways.

Reflective Question:

Where might Jesus be showing up in the small or quiet places of your life?

Prayer for the Journey:

Jesus, help me not to overlook the small and simple ways You reveal Yourself. Make my heart like Bethlehem — ready to receive You.

Daily Focus:

Encourage someone today who might feel unnoticed or unimportant. Remind them that God sees and values them.



December 4th

Scripture :

Luke 1:30-31 (NLT)

'Don't be afraid, Mary,' the angel told her, 'for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.'

Reflection :

Imagine being Mary — young, humble, probably scared — and hearing this news. The Savior the world had been waiting for was coming, and she would be part of it. That's the beauty of anticipation; God often shows up in the most unexpected ways and invites us into His story.

Reflective Question :

How might God be inviting you into His story this season?

Prayer for the Journey :

Father, help me to trust You even when I don't understand the whole picture. Give me a heart like Mary's — willing, open, and full of faith.

Daily Focus :

Talk with your family about how each of you can say yes to God in small ways this Christmas.

December 5th

Scripture:

Luke 1:38 (NKJV)

'Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."'

Reflection:

Mary didn't just hear the angel's words — she responded with surrender. That's what anticipation looks like when it turns into trust. She didn't have all the answers, but she had enough faith to say, 'Let it be to me.' That's powerful.

Reflective Question:

Is there something in your life right now where God is asking you to say, 'Let it be to me'?

Prayer for the Journey:

Lord, I want to have a heart like Mary's. Help me to say yes to You, even when it's hard or uncertain.

Daily Focus:

Choose one small act of obedience today — something that reflects a trusting heart.

December 6th

Scripture:

Luke 1:46-47 (NLT)

'Mary responded, "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!"'

Reflection:

Even in the middle of uncertainty, Mary chose to worship. That's what anticipation does — it lifts our eyes off our circumstances and puts them on the One who holds it all together. Her song wasn't just about what God had done, but what He was about to do.

Reflective Question:

What can you praise God for today — even before the answer comes?

Prayer for the Journey:

God, help me to worship You not just for what You've done, but for what You're doing and what's to come.

Daily Focus:

Pick a worship song or a hymn today and sing it — even if it's just in the car running an errand or while doing a task around the house. Let it be your song of anticipation.



December 7th

Scripture:

Luke 1:68-69 (NLT)

'Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David.'

Reflection:

Zechariah had waited a long time to see God's promises fulfilled — not just for a son of his own, but for the Savior of the world. When he finally saw the pieces coming together, praise poured out of him. That's what anticipation fulfilled looks like — worship born from waiting.

Reflective Question:

What promise of God are you holding onto right now?

Prayer for the Journey:

Lord, thank You for being faithful through every season of waiting. Help me to trust Your timing and praise You even before I see the full picture.

Daily Focus:

Think of a promise from God that has encouraged you. Share it with someone today.

December 8th



Scripture:

Luke 1:79 (NKJV)

'To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

Reflection:

Jesus came to guide us into peace — not just peace in the world, but peace in our hearts. That's part of what we're anticipating: the kind of peace that only His presence can bring. In a season that can be filled with noise and pressure, He invites us to walk in His calm, steady presence.

Reflective Question:

Where do you need the peace of Jesus to guide you today?

Prayer for the Journey:

Lord, thank You for being my peace. Help me walk in step with You, even when everything around me feels rushed or uncertain.

Daily Focus:

Create a peaceful moment today — turn off the noise, and talk with Jesus.

December 9th

Scripture:

Matthew 1:20-21 (NKJV)

'...for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.'

Reflection:

This wasn't just any baby — His name was Jesus, and He came with a mission. His very name tells us why He came — to save. That's what the world had been waiting for, and what we still celebrate today — the arrival of the Savior.

Reflective Question:

What does it mean to you personally that Jesus came to save?

Prayer for the Journey:

Jesus, thank You for coming to rescue me. Help me to live each day with the joy and freedom of someone who has been saved.

Daily Focus:

Talk with someone today about what the name of Jesus means to you.



December 10th

Scripture:

Luke 2:4-5 (NKJV)

'Joseph also went up from Galilee... to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem... to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.'

Reflection:

Joseph didn't have all the answers, but he had obedient faith. He trusted God enough to take the next step — even when it was inconvenient and uncomfortable. That's what anticipation often looks like steady, quiet obedience in the middle of uncertainty.

Reflective Question:

Is there a step of obedience God is asking you to take right now?

Prayer for the Journey:

Lord, help me to walk in obedience, even when the path doesn't make sense. Give me the courage to follow You one step at a time.

Daily Focus:

Choose at least one way to obey God today — a complete act of obedience that honors Him.

December 11th



Scripture:

Luke 2:1-3 (NLT)

'At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire... All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census.'

Reflection:

It might have seemed like a routine government order, but God was conducting every detail. That census moved Mary and Joseph exactly where they needed to be, He was fulfilling prophecy without them even realizing it. God still works through the ordinary to bring about the extraordinary.

Reflective Question:

Can you look back and see how God has used everyday circumstances to move you forward?

Prayer for the Journey:

God, thank You for working through every detail — even the ones I don't understand. Help me to trust that You are always at work.

Daily Focus:

Talk with someone about a time when God used something unexpected for His purpose in your life.

December 12th



Scripture:

Luke 2:6 (NLT)

'And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.'

Reflection:

There's something powerful about that phrase — 'the time came.' After months of waiting, traveling, and trusting, Mary and Joseph had arrived. And now, the moment was near. Maybe you're in a season of waiting, too. Don't lose heart — God's timing is always right, and He is always faithful.

Reflective Question:

What is something you've been waiting on God for? How can you trust Him in the meantime?

Prayer for the Journey:

Lord, help me to trust Your timing. Even when I feel like I'm on the edge of something new, give me peace as I wait for Your perfect plan to unfold.

Daily Focus:

Spend a few quiet minutes today reflecting on what it means to wait with hope.

December 13th

Scripture:

Luke 2:8-9 (NKJV)

'Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields... And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them...'

Reflection:

The shepherds were doing what they always did — working the night shift, watching sheep. But God met them right there. That's the beauty of anticipation. God often shows up when we least expect it, right in the middle of ordinary life.

Reflective Question:

When have you experienced God grabbing your attention in the middle of your everyday routine?

Prayer for the Journey:

Lord, help me to be aware of You in the ordinary. I don't want to miss what You're doing just because I'm busy or distracted.

Daily Focus:

Slow down today and look for God in the small, everyday moments.

December 14th

Scripture:

Luke 2:10-11 (NLT)

'But the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today...'

Reflection:

This is the announcement the world had been waiting for — the Savior had come! The angel's words were filled with joy, hope, and peace. And even though we're not quite to Christmas Day yet, we can feel the anticipation building. The arrival is near.

Reflective Question:

What does it mean to you that the Savior came for all people — including you?

Prayer for the Journey:

Jesus, thank You for coming for me. Fill my heart with joy and help me to remember that Your arrival changes everything.

Daily Focus:

Share a joyful moment today — in a smile, or a prayer, or a kind word of encouragement.



December 15th

Scripture:

Luke 2:13-14 (NKJV)

'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, goodwill toward men!''

Reflection:

Heaven couldn't stay silent. The angels broke into praise because the long-awaited moment had come — the Savior was born. Their song is a reminder that the arrival of Jesus is worth celebrating, not just with words, but with out-loud worship. As we get closer to Christmas, let your heart begin to overflow with praise.

Reflective Question:

What would it look like for you to respond to Jesus with worship today?

Prayer for the Journey:

Lord, let my heart echo the angels. You are worthy of my praise, not just on Christmas, but every day. Help me to worship You with joy.

Daily Focus:

Take a few minutes today to worship — sing, pray, or simply thank God for sending Jesus.

December 16th

Scripture:

Luke 2:15-16 (NLT)

'When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, 'Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened...''

Reflection:

The shepherds didn't just hear the good news — they acted on it. They went to find Jesus for themselves. That's what anticipation does when it meets faith — it moves. As we approach Christmas, let's be like the shepherds — eager to draw near to Jesus.

Reflective Question:

What's one way you can respond to Jesus with action today?

Prayer for the Journey:

Jesus, I don't want to just hear about You — I want to know You. Help me to take steps toward You with faith and joy.

Daily Focus:

Take a step of faith today — whether it's reaching out to someone, praying boldly, or serving quietly.



December 17th

Scripture:

Matthew 2:1-2 (NKJV)

'Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.'

Reflection:

As we should know, the wise men didn't arrive the night Jesus was born, but they began their journey with hearts full of anticipation. They saw the sign and followed it, not knowing exactly where it would lead. That's what faith looks like — a willingness to seek Jesus, even when the way is long.

Reflective Question:

What does it look like for you to seek Jesus with purpose this season?

Prayer for the Journey:

Lord, help me to follow You with a heart that's willing and expectant. I want to seek You above all else.

Daily Focus:

Set aside a few quiet minutes today to pray or read Scripture with intentionality.

December 18th

Scripture:

Matthew 2:9-10 (NLT)

'And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem... When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!'

Reflection:

God guided the wise men step by step, and He still guides us today. Their joy didn't come just from arriving — it came from knowing they were close to the One they had been seeking. As we near Christmas, let joy rise in your heart, knowing that Jesus is near.

Reflective Question:

Where do you need God's guidance in your life right now?

Prayer for the Journey:

Father, thank You for leading me. Help me to follow with trust and joy, even when the road is longer than I expected.

Daily Focus:

Talk with someone about a time when God led you in a meaningful way.



December 19th



Scripture:

Matthew 2:11 (NKJV)

'And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him...'

Reflection:

When the wise men finally found Jesus, they responded with worship and generosity. Their gifts were thoughtful and meaningful, but their hearts were the real offering. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, may our worship be just as sincere.

Reflective Question:

What can you offer Jesus this Christmas from your heart?

Prayer for the Journey:

Jesus, I want to give You more than just tradition — I want to give You my heart. Let my worship be real and my giving be joyful.

Daily Focus:

Find one intentional way to give today — a word, a gift, or an act of love.

December 20th

Scripture:

John 1:14 (NLT)

'So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.'

Reflection:

This is what we've been waiting for — God with us. Jesus didn't just come to visit; He came to dwell. He stepped into our world, our mess, our lives. As Christmas draws near, let that truth sink in — He came close, and He's still here.

Reflective Question:

How can you make space for Jesus to dwell in your heart and home this week?

Prayer for the Journey:

Emmanuel, thank You for coming close. Be at home in my heart and in my life this Christmas.

Daily Focus:

Light a candle or sit by the tree and reflect on the presence of Jesus with you.



December 21st

Scripture:

Galatians 4:4-5 (NKJV)

'But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son... to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.'

Reflection:

God's timing is always perfect. When everything was just right, Jesus came. His arrival wasn't random — it was redemptive. He came to bring us into the family of God. That's the heart of Christmas: not just that He came, but that He came for us.

Reflective Question:

What does it mean to you that you've been adopted into God's family?

Prayer for the Journey:

Father, thank You for making me Your child. Help me to live with the confidence that I belong to You.

Daily Focus:

Talk with someone about what it means to be part of God's family.

December 22nd

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 9:15 (NLT)

'Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!'

Reflection:

As we stand just days away from Christmas, we pause to reflect on the gift that started it all — Jesus. He is the gift too wonderful for words, and yet we try to express our gratitude through worship, through giving, and through living lives that honor Him. Let the wonder of this gift stir fresh gratitude in your heart.

Reflective Question:

How has Jesus been a gift in your life this year?

Prayer for the Journey:

Jesus, You are the greatest gift I've ever received. Thank You for coming, for loving, and for saving. Help me to live in a way that reflects how much I treasure You.

Daily Focus:

Write down or share with someone what Jesus means to you this Christmas.



December 23rd

Scripture:

John 3:16 (NKJV)

'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...'

Reflection:

This is the heart of Christmas, it's a love that gives. God didn't just say He loved us; He showed it by sending His Son. The arrival of Jesus is the arrival of love in its purest form. On this Christmas Eve's Eve, let your heart be filled with awe at the depth of God's love for you.

Reflective Question:

How does the arrival of Jesus reveal the depth of God's love for you?

Prayer for the Journey:

Father, thank You for loving me enough to send Jesus. Let that truth change the way I love others this season.

Daily Focus:

Show love to someone today — through a word, an action, or a moment of kindness.

December 24th

Scripture:

Romans 15:13 (NLT)

'I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him.'

Reflection:

Christmas Eve — the night of anticipation by Christ followers all over the world. The waiting is almost over. Hope is about to break through in the form of a newborn King. As we pause tonight, may your heart be filled with the peace and joy that only Jesus can bring. He is the hope we've been waiting for.

Reflective Question:

What part of Jesus' arrival — hope, peace, or joy — do you need most tonight?

Prayer for the Journey:

Jesus, You are my hope. Fill my heart tonight with Your peace and joy as I prepare to celebrate Your arrival.

Daily Focus:

Show love to someone today, whether through a word, or an action, a simple moment of kindness. Let it reflect the love you've received.

December 25th



Scripture:

Luke 2:20 (NKJV)

'Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen...'

Reflection:

Today we celebrate the arrival. The waiting is over — Jesus has come! The shepherds couldn't help but praise God after seeing Him, and neither should we. Let this day be filled with joy, worship, and gratitude. He is here. He is with us. And He is worthy of it all.

Reflective Question:

How will you carry the joy of Jesus' arrival into the days ahead?

Prayer for the Journey:

Jesus, thank You for coming. Thank You for being the fulfillment of every promise. Let my life be filled with praise, not just today, but every day.

Daily Focus:

Of all days, make this day that we celebrate His arrival all about Jesus! Make Him the center of your Christmas celebration. Read the Christmas story together as a family: Luke 2:1–20. Rejoice, give thanks, and worship Him with your whole heart.

Weekly Action Step:

Pray as a family, and give thanks for the Savior who was born. Let your home be filled with worship and joy.

A note from Pastor Gary

Chapel Family,

Well done. You made it — all 25 days of this journey from anticipation to arrival. I want to take a moment to say how proud I am of you for sticking with it. I know how full this season can be, and yet you chose to carve out time each day to focus your heart on Jesus.

That matters. It really does.

Over the past few weeks, we've walked together through the promises, the waiting, the wonder, and the worship. We've prepared our hearts, leaned into the anticipation, and now we've celebrated the arrival of our Savior. But here's the thing — this isn't the end of the journey.

The arrival of Jesus isn't just a moment to remember; it's a life to live. Every day is an opportunity to walk with Him, to seek Him, to worship Him, and to reflect His light to the world around us. So, as we look ahead to 2026, I want to challenge you — don't leave this journey behind with the decorations. Take it with you wherever you go. Let the anticipation of His return and the power of His presence shape your new year.

Keep opening your Bible. Keep praying with your family. Keep making space for Jesus in your everyday life. The journey continues — and He walks with you every step of the way.

Here's a simple Christmas prayer from my heart to yours —

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for coming — for being our Light, our Hope, and our Savior. I pray for every person and every family who has walked through this devotional. May their hearts be full of Your peace, their homes filled with Your love, and their lives marked by Your presence. As we move into a new year, help us not to forget what You've done in us this season. Let the wonder of Your arrival carry us forward with joy and purpose. We love You, Lord. Amen.

Merry Christmas, Chapel Family. May your days be filled with peace, your homes with laughter, and your hearts with the presence of Jesus — not just today, but all year long.

With much love and prayers,
Pastor Gary



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