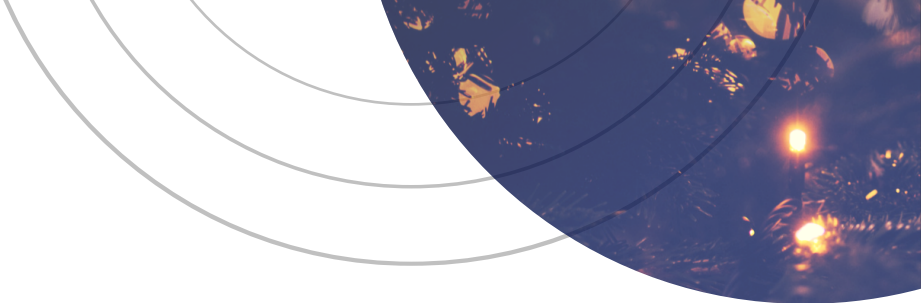


WEEK 1:
NOV 29 - DEC 3



ADVENT

READINGS &
REFLECTIONS



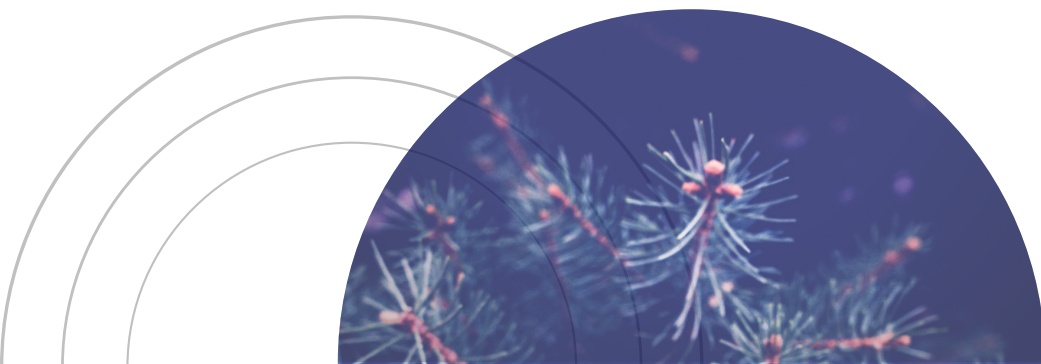
DEVOTIONAL

WEEK 1

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9: 1-7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 2The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 3You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.





SECOND READING

Matthew 4: 12-16

12 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles —

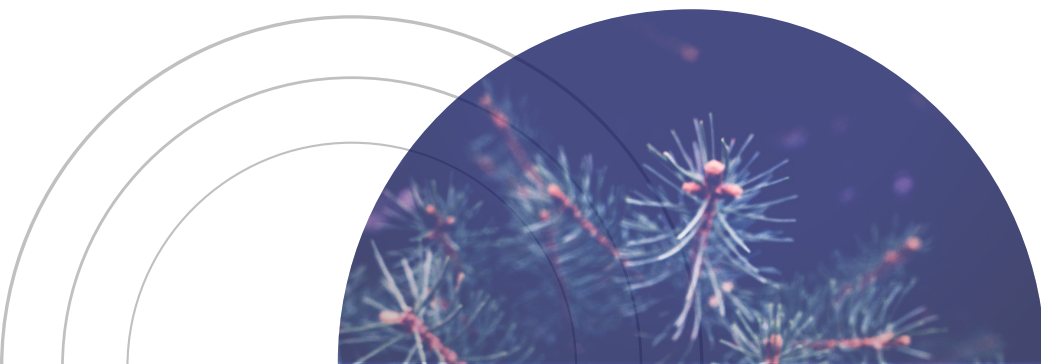
16 the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

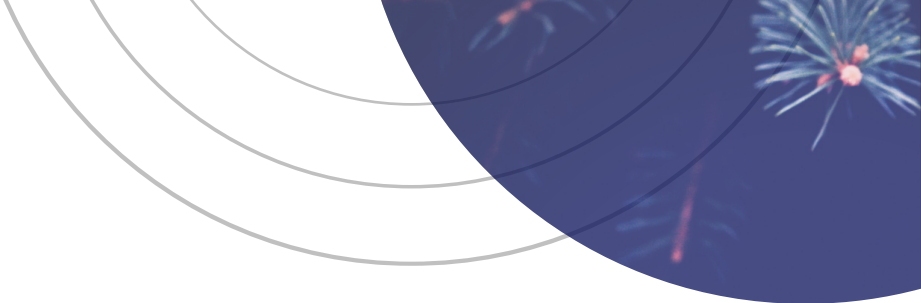
REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Jesus begins to preach! Building upon a PROMISE made long before he was born - “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow... a light has dawned.”

1. Are we people upon whom this light shines today?

2. If Jesus’ preaching is still heard, how should we respond to what we hear?





REFLECTION QUESTIONS CONT.

3. What stands out for you when you read the Bible texts for this Sunday?

4. What relevance do the images in these readings have for us as we approach another Christmas?

