

Who we are

In a tree, the heartwood is the center core of strength and life. At Heartwood Church, we nurture that strength in people and our community. The Bible teaches that an inward living strength of heart comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ, who makes us new from the inside out. A life grows stronger when a person faithfully connects to Jesus, the source of life, and Heartwood Church helps people make and grow that connection.

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Advent Lectio Divina



HEARTWOOD CHURCH



Heartwood Church
6477 10th St. N.
Oakdale, MN 55128

There are four scripture passages for each week of Advent (one for Christmas Eve or Day), so even if a day is missed or if you want to spend more than one day on a particular scripture, you will not get behind. Follow these five steps as you approach each scripture.

1. **Lectio (reading, listening)**: Read the text once or twice. What does the text say to me? What word or phrase catches my attention?
2. **Meditatio (meditation)**: Reflect silently on the text and listen. What is God saying to me through the text? What words, images, and insights arise? How does this reading connect with something in my life?
3. **Oratio (prayer)**: Talk to God about your thoughts and feelings. Be honest, especially about your fear and anxiety. What do I want to say to God about the text? What do I hear God saying to me?
4. **Contemplatio (contemplation)**: Be still and rest in the presence of God who has offered God's Word through this prayer experience.
5. **Actio (action)**: How am I called to conversion based on this time of prayer? What is the Spirit calling me to do today?

Christmas Eve or Day – Revelation

- The Birth of Jesus: Luke 2:1-20

Week 4 – Resurrection

- Rachel's Death: Genesis 35:16-20
- Herod Kills the Boys of Bethlehem: Matthew 2:13-18
- Joseph's Sons are Blessed: Genesis 48:1-12
- God's People Seek the Ark of the Covenant: Psalm 132:1-18

Week 1 – Rest

- Zebulon's Inheritance: Genesis 49:13 and Joshua 19:10-16
- Johanan rests in Bethlehem: Jeremiah 41:11-18
- The Water at Bethlehem: 1 Chronicles 11:16-19
- The Messiah is from Bethlehem: John 7:37-46

Week 2 – Redemption

- Naomi and Ruth travel to Bethlehem: Ruth 1:1-22
- Ruth gleans in Bethlehem: Ruth 2:1-23
- Ruth appeals to Boaz Ruth: 3:1-18
- The redemption of Naomi: Ruth 4:1-22

Week 3 – Royalty

- David Anointed in Bethlehem: 1 Samuel 16:1-18
- David and Goliath: 1 Samuel 17:12-58
- Ruler from Bethlehem: Micah 5:1-6
- The Wise men Search and Find the King: Matthew 2:1-12