

## Advent Reading

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### Metairie Church

- Week Two: Peace

- We are in a season in the life of the church known as Advent, when we remember the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ, to earth, and we anticipate with joy his coming again to earth to reign. We, at Metairie Church, are celebrating this season by, each week leading up to Christmas, reading part of the story of Christmas and asking everyone to participate in a responsive prayer around four common themes of advent: hope, peace, joy, and love. We would encourage you to invite your friends and families to come celebrate this season with us.
- We light this candle as a representation of God's peace, which He gives to us in abundance until it runs over, flowing through us, into the world. [*Light the Candle.*] We, each and all of us together, are called to be peacemakers. May our hands make peace; may our lips speak it. This is the word of the Lord from the book of Matthew:
  - [*Read Matthew 1:18-25;2:13-18*]
- At this time, we would ask you to join us in a responsive prayer—It will be up on the screens. We will start, and then you say the parts that are in bold as a means of praying together with us.

Father God,

**You've made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.**

The world is a restless place unless your kingdom come.

Fix my eyes to focus on another and better world, even as I work for peace in this one,

cause me to consider and confess myself a refugee and foreigner here,

Give me all the direction, defense, support, and consolation my journey to you will require,

and fix my mind on you.

**Give me your Holy Spirit in abundance, Father, the Spirit Jesus had,**

so I might be prepared for the things you'll require of me,

love you with everything and with abandon,

submit to you in every temptation,

trust you when I'm walking in darkness,

and have peace in you in this turbulent life.

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Prayer Adapted from *The Confessions* of Augustine and "True Religion" in *The Valley of Vision*