



## “And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5

Reverend Desmond Tutu presents hope as *the ability to see that there is light despite all the darkness*. Preparing our hearts to see when our eyes cannot may almost seem impossible yet this is the hope we are called to, an invitation to wrestle with our longings in unity with the longings of our neighbors. We long to see communities flourishing and people who are full of love and life. As we enter this advent season, we invite you to read, reflect, pray and serve with us, waiting together for what darkness will birth forth.

### WEEK 1 HOPE

**Read:** “I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” Psalm 27:13-14

**Reflect & Pray:** As you look around, what areas in your community are in need of hope? Where do you long to see change?

**Serve:**

- Learn more from our Young Governors about [food and inequities in our community](#) & the [homelessness](#) issue in Elmhurst & Corona
- [Sign up to serve at New Life CDC food pantry](#)

### WEEK 2 PEACE

“Welcome is one of the signs that a community is alive. To invite others to live with us is a sign that we aren’t afraid, that we have a treasure of truth and of peace to share.”  
Jean Vanier

**Read:** Matthew 5:3-12, Romans 12: 13-20, Hebrews 13:2, 2 Corinthians 13:11 & [read more about the Migrant Crisis](#)

**Reflect & Pray:** How do hospitality and peace coexist? The peace of Jesus reaches the deepest and darkest parts of our hearts, our relationships, our community, and our world. Welcome Jesus into these areas of darkness. What do you see? How do you react? May we welcome our neighbors in the same way we welcome Jesus.

**Serve:**

- [Ways to love recently arrived Migrants](#)
- Host a Coat Drive, ask a recently arrived migrant to share her/his story, create arts & crafts kits for children in the shelter, and compile a list of job posts for recently arrived neighbors (be mindful of their working status). There are so many ways to welcome refugees, if you have ideas contact us at [info@newlifecdc.nyc](mailto:info@newlifecdc.nyc)

### WEEK 3 LOVE

“There can be no love without justice.”  
bell hooks

**Read:** Read the bell hooks quote once again & Romans 8:13

**Reflect & Pray:** We all know that we should love our neighbors and we also know what a difficult task it could be. Love at times can take forms of benevolence or perhaps tolerance but Jesus invites us to a deeper engagement with love. What injustices are happening in your neighborhood? What is the Spirit of God illuminating through the reads? Bring them before the Lord.

**Serve:**

- [Learn more about your community and pressing issues](#)
- Gather your friends and family to learn more about organizing in your community.
- To host a Queens Power introductory session email: [info@newlifecdc.nyc](mailto:info@newlifecdc.nyc)

### WEEK 4 JOY

I've got joy like a river, I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river in my soul.  
I've got joy like a river, I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river in my soul.  
Baptist Hymnal, 1991

**Read:** “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Romans 15:13

**Reflect & Pray:** What makes you joyful? As you sign the hymn above, what emotions is God stirring up in your heart?

**Serve:**

- Express your Joy!
- Dance, sing, [craft](#), write.

May Joy run like a river in your life to bear witness to the coming of Jesus!

\*Please note that this is a hyperlinked PDF document that takes you to external pages.



# ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

**NEW LIFE CDC**  
relief | restoration | reinvestment