

An Invitation

You are invited to write your own letter(s) and reflections this advent season based on Season's Greetings.

I'd love to hear your reflections through our Season's Greetings mailbox, through email, or on Sunday night.

You are also invited to share your reflections on Sunday morning. Please contact me if you are interested.
Pastor Kim. (kim@westernhillsep.org).

What Christmas Means to Me . . .

ADVENT JOY
DECEMBER 14, 2025



WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME . . .

ADVENT JOY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

Each week you are invited to use these questions and others in Season's Greetings by Ruth Boling to focus and expand the gift of Christmas. Scriptures for this week are Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-15, 19-23

Reflect on Joseph's Letter-Christmas Casualties

1. One way that Joseph describes the impact of Christmas is in terms of casualties.

What have you lost by saying “yes” when called by God to do certain tasks? What have you gained? Be specific.

2. In this letter, Joseph says, “We were a people rooted in a sense of place.” He goes on to describe the impact of being displaced multiple times.

What is your experience of place? What is your experience of displacement? Do you have a happy place? Do you have a holy place?

3. In this letter, Joseph acknowledges that being a father to Jesus did not conform to his expectations.

What parts of your life now would come as a great surprise to your younger self? How did God shape your story?

Write a thank-you letter to your younger self for the great job you did preparing for the unexpected.

4. Joseph accepts the role of raising Jesus although he is not Jesus' biological father.

Who besides your parents raised you? Who besides your own children have you nurtured?

After reflecting on these people in your journal, write all their names on little pieces of colored paper and hang them on your Christmas tree.

Write your own letter

Who would you write a letter to? Are you writing in the voice of someone or yourself?

- What does Christmas mean to you?
- What has Christmas meant to you in the past?
- What do you want Christmas to mean?
- What do you make of Christmas the way we celebrate it today?
- What could you make of it instead?
- How will you go about putting your intentions into actions?

