

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 LOVE
DECEMBER 21, 2025



WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME . . .

ADVENT LOVE, DECEMBER 21, 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 Mary's Letter-Bring it!

1. Describe Mary's personality and character traits as portrayed in this letter. Compare this portrait of Mary with the way she appears in Christmas cards, nativity pageants, and Christian art.

Have you ever thought of Mary as a fun-loving adventurer? Can you picture her lying on her belly playing in the mud with Jesus? Can you picture her tilting her head back and snorting with laughter? Why or why not?

2. In this letter Mary says, "I came to admire God for making things difficult."

**What do you make of this statement?
How do you relate to it?**

3. In this letter, Mary thinks of Jesus' first cry as an announcement of sorts, as if God himself were saying, "Here am I." **Do you perceive God to present here and now?**

Ask God to help you notice God's presence. Set a timer for three minutes and sit in silent expectation. Then write what comes to mind; write what you feel, or write a prayer.

4. For all its joy, Christmas can be a stressful time of year. Rigidity is a common response to stress. Make a list with two columns. In the left-hand column, write what you love about the Christmas season. In the right-hand column, write what you find stressful. Study your lists.

What can you cross off the right-hand column? What can you adapt in your right-hand column to make the season less stressful?

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?

