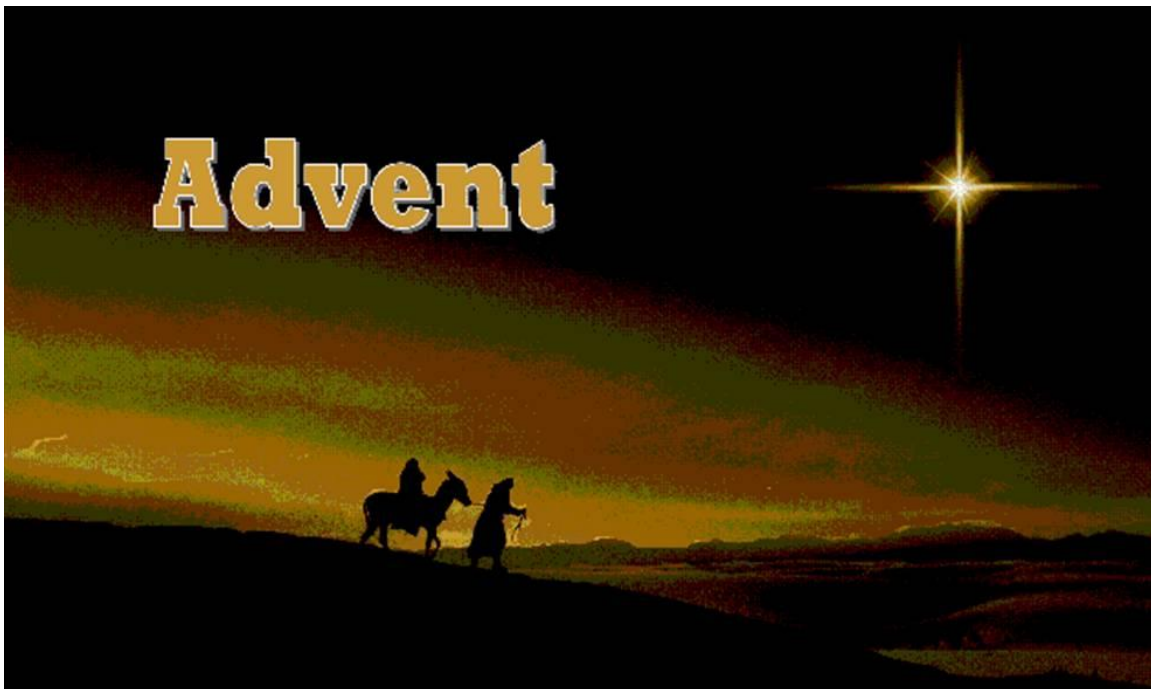




*Jaramogi Menelik Kimathi,
Presiding Bishop, PAOCC*

My Advent Guide



*“Embracing The Everlasting
Light!”*

December 1, - December 22, 2024

The Season of Advent

Advent MEANS TO COME, WE KNOW THAT IF WE OPEN OURSELVES TO RECEIVE THE POWER OF GOD, THE POWER WILL COME.

As COVENANT CHRISTIANS WE PREPARE FOR THIS COMING BY DECORATING, CELEBRATING, ENGAGING IN COMMUNAL FELLOWSHIP AND DEEPENING OUR FAITH THROUGH OUR ACTIONS.

Advent Themes: Faith * Hope * Love * Charity

Advent has historically been a time of heightened spiritual activity, where many miracles and blessings abound among those who truly uphold the covenant agreement. During Advent we seek to heighten our faith as we give service to God. Our mission to uplift and empower ourselves as God's instruments of salvation is foundational to the hope that drives us to reach out to others and spread the gospel of Good News. It is our love for our families and community that continues to motivate us to struggle onward. Our charity is evident as we share our blessings through our prayers, thoughts and deeds. This is the spirit of Advent in the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church. The extreme expectations that we have in our future, exceeds all adversity as we move forward into a New Era.

This Advent season, we invite you on a spiritual journey of reflection, hope, and renewal. In a world filled with difficulties and distractions, let us turn our hearts to the true source of light—one that outshines even the darkest days. Join us as we seek the Everlasting Light, a light that brings peace, joy, and fulfillment into our lives and illuminates the path forward. Through prayer, worship, and acts of kindness, let us come together in anticipation and gratitude. Let us come expecting to receive a renewed faith, that will help us light the way for others. Let us be reminded that the Everlasting Light resides within us all, guiding our way and igniting hope. Let us allow our inner light to shine brightly through acts of faith, which will advance our mission, and help us rise above the darkness of our times.

We therefore issue this call to all of our members, visitors and friends to join us during the Advent/Holy Season to find/expect a miracle and/or blessing designed just for YOU!!!

Advent ~ WE OPEN OURSELVES FOR NEW MIRACLES THROUGH THE
POWER OF GOD.

Spiritual Empowerment

Spiritual Empowerment Plan

Designed to help all seekers to create and commit to their own spiritual, step by step plan of action of which prayer and meditation are central.

Step One: Developing the Eyes to See

- * Complete the sentence: My Best Self is (Ex: a disciplined person who fasts and tithes regularly.)
- * Create positive daily affirmations that affirm your vision.
- * Create a Vision Board, images representing your best self.

Step Two: Taking Responsibility for Spiritual Growth

- * List specific goals you pledge to set become your Best Self. (Suggestion: See Five Cardinal Resolutions)
- * List specific steps you pledge to take to reach each goal. (Ex: prepare offering envelope before arriving for Worship.)
- * List attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors hindering your quest.
- * End each day reviewing ways you honored your pledges.

Step Three: Strengthening and Exercising Your Faith

- * List your spiritual challenges. (Ex: forgiving others)
- * Commit to a service/church ministry that helps you to face your spiritual challenges.
- * Commit to a regular opportunity for Christian fellowship and spiritual support.
- * Set aside a specific time for daily reflection.
- * Recite Daily Affirmation.

DAILY AFFIRMATION

Today, I choose to renew, refine, and reinvest
in my Relationship with God so that I can become
my BEST SELF,
and do my part to create a new heaven and a new earth.

Thoughts for Reflection

“O Lord Strengthen Our Faith”
Enable us to place our trust in Thee.
Open us, that our faith may be strengthened
and our hope deepened,
that you may be able to work wonders through us.

Lord,
We extend the anchor of hope to each other.
Our hope is in our Gods’ unfailing love,
of that we rest secure.
Nothing can separate us from his love,
and hope does not disappoint us,
because God has poured his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

O Lord,
Let our hearts grow stronger in love,
and the lessons Love teaches our minds and spirits.

Almighty God,
We pray for your continued mercy,
For you have always been charitable to us.
Keep us always seeking thy Power and Grace
As we strive to build bridges of love, honesty,
sincerity and charity unto each other.
To you O Lord, we give the Glory.

Become What You Believe

I Believe, that I am an expression of God.

I Believe, God is in me and all around me.

I Believe, I possess an inner divinity that gives me
the power to learn, grow, improve and evolve all
the days of my life.

I Believe, I am a co-creator cooperating with God
to shape my life and my world.

I Believe, I am a co-Creator cooperating with God
to shape my life and my world.

I Believe, God seeks to realize divine will through
me.

I Believe, I am consecrated to serve God by
serving others.

I Believe, I can do all things through Christ that
strengthens me.

I Believe, Nothing is impossible for me as long as
I believe.

I BELIEVE, I BELIEVE, I BELIEVE, I BELIEVE
In the God in Me.

-Jaramogi Menelik Kimathi

Thank You God

I AM an expression of God.

I AM light.

I AM beautiful inside and out.

I DESERVE love.

I DESERVE respect.

I DESERVE peace.

I CAN learn anything.

I CAN develop my potential.

I CAN accomplish my goals.

I CAN realize my dreams.

I worship God when I acknowledge the God in me.

God built worth and value into me.

I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Thank You God for giving me, ME.

- *Jaramogi Menelik Kimathi*

Five Cardinal Resolutions

The PAOCC exists to help seekers become better Christians to do the will of God. We are strengthened and inspired along our journey by our personal relationship with God and our communal relationship with our brothers and sisters.

The Five Cardinal Resolutions, adapted by Jaramogi Menelik Kimathi for our church community allows all seekers to live up to our God-given potential.

1. I resolve to practice radical transformative hospitality to those God draws to our fellowship.
2. I resolve to passionately worship GOD who is the source and substance of my existence and the nourishment of my soul.
3. I resolve to pursue faith development through the disciplines, sacraments and practices of the church to realize my highest potential and prove myself worthy of my inner divinity.
4. I resolve to participate in socially transforming missions, particularly those focused on this Pan-African World Community, in order to do the greatest good with my life and to bring the world into greater conformity with GOD's will.
5. I resolve to exude extravagant generosity in all aspects of my life emulating GOD's precious generosity toward me.

THE MESSIAH

I am Black
I am Oppressed
And I seek to end my oppression
I would strike out against it,
But I can neither understand it
Nor face it.
Certainly, I must change
Both myself
And the society in which I live.
But the nature of change evades me,
And all of my efforts have been in vain.

As we feel today,
So men felt 2,000 years ago
Until a child
Created out of the very substance at God
Discovered his inner Divinity
And changed the world.
Who can foretell the birth of one
Who is to be anointed Messiah,
With power for the powerless,
Healing for the sick,
And Liberation for those in chains?
“What I do ye can do, and even more.
The Kingdom of God is within you.”
So, every town and Ghetto
Is Bethlehem
And every child born of a Black Madonna
Is a new MESSIAH...
Only waiting to discover
His Inner Divinity.

-Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman