

## Daily Disciplines

### Devotion:

If the lost word is lost, if the spent word is spent  
If the unheard, unspoken  
Word is unspoken, unheard;  
Still the unspoken work, the Word unheard,  
The Word without a word, the Word within  
The world and the for the world;  
And the light shone in darkness and  
Against the Word the unstilled world still whirled  
About the centre of the silent Word.  
— T. S. Eliot

### Journal Prompt:

Advent is both a beginning and an end, an alpha and an omega of the church's year of grace. Too often considered merely a season of preparation for the annual commemoration of Christ's birth, this rich and many-layered season is actually designed to prepare the Christian for the glorious possibilities of the parousia. It is a season of longing expectation—Come, Lord Jesus" Read and reflect on the passage. What does Advent mean to you? What are the "glorious possibilities" awaiting you?

### Prayer Prompt:

As you prepare for prayer, light a candle, pay attention to the wonder that is light, the inviting flicker of a single lumen of light, and seek to appreciate the awesome mystery that is light.

### Lectio Divina:

Practice lectio divina using:

#### **Now the Heavens Start to Whisper**

Now the heavens start to whisper,  
as the veil is growing thin.  
Earth from slumber waits to listen  
to the stirring, faint within:  
seed of promise, deeply planted,  
child to spring from Jesse's stem!  
Like the soil beneath the frostline,  
hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Heavy clouds that block the moonlight  
now begin to drift away.  
Diamond brilliance through the darkness  
shines the hope of coming day.  
Christ, the morning star of splendor,

gleams within a world grown dim.  
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;  
hearts grow warm to welcome him.

Christ, eternal Sun of justice,  
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,  
come to bless with fire and fragrance  
hours of yearning, hurt, and needs.  
In the lonely, in the stranger,  
in the outcast, hid from view,  
child who comes to grace the manger,  
teach our hearts to welcome you.

--Mary Louise Bringle (Glory to God, Presbyterian Hymnal)