



Important Phone Numbers
 National Alliance on Mental Illness Help Line
 1-800-950-6264 <https://www.nami.org/help>
 Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800.273.TALK
 Veteran's Crisis Line 800.273.8255 *press 1*
 Pastoral Care—Pastor Jim Alexander
 623.792.5295

The Church of the Palms' W.I.S.E. focus will be combined for November and December. Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's will be experienced differently than ever before in our lifetime because of COVID 19, traveling restrictions, sizes of groups recommended for safety. Amid celebrations and losses, we all come with anticipation and hopes of something to touch our souls as only the Divine can.

"PROMISES" and reminders of God's continued presence can comfort and embolden our choices of how to respond to the myriad of emotions that holidays bring. Most of us own our nostalgic tendencies during this season. That brings sorrow and joyful memories. So let's go exploring about God's "PROMISES" for eight weeks.

Please read the overview and scripture ties for each week and pray that Emmanuel will open you to new ways of celebrating the holidays of 2020. God *is* with you!

Proclamation:

"I will be your God." —Isaiah 41:10

Advent is an anticipatory time in our liturgical church calendar. Anticipation of the storied events of Jesus' birth were predicted in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Two key ingredients of a proclamation are: to undertake to give (something to someone) and secondly it is an intentional and solemn binding promise.

God consistently, not just at Advent or during the celebration of our secular holiday of Christmas, proclaims love to the world. God proclaimed love from the beginning of time. What if I claim that God's love for me has been there all this time. He shouts it, shows it, continues to reveal it. God's proclamation of Love does not cease.

Promise has a future; it is not a past tense word. God is engaged and with us at each moment of our individualized experiences/our daily ordinary lives. God is with us in these unprecedented times, these struggles added to our daily encounter of "normal rhythms of life."

P

Proclamation:

Isaiah 41:10
I will be your God.

R

Ready:

Psalms 32:18
God will be our guide.

O

Overture:

Jeremiah 1:5
Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you...

M

Mercy:

Hebrews 2:18; 4:15; 12:3
We never walk where Jesus hasn't already walked.

I

Initiator:

Psalms 42:1
As the hart panteth after the brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.

S

Steadfast:

Psalms 123:1 *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*
 Hebrews 13:5 *I will never leave you.*
 Isaiah 43:3,4 *God will carry us.*

E

Endued:

1 Peter 1:4
...to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away...

S

Shining Forth:

Deuteronomy 33:2
And he said, the Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them: he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints...