Like many of us, I love Christmas. There are so many things to enjoy: traditions, time with family, and the beauty of a Christmas Eve candlelight service. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year (great, now I've got that song stuck in all of our heads). Amid so many opportunities, we must also guard against what might distract us from celebrating Jesus' birth.

Having a structure for our reading of Scripture can be a great defense against the consumerism of our culture. The seasons of the church calendar always draw me to the lectionary. Though I did not grow up with liturgy, I love the historical connection of reading the same Scriptures that so many saints before us have read. Please consider the following Scriptures and prayers for global missions during the weeks of Advent:

Week One
Jesus came in voluntary meekness and humility to save us by His Grace.
Matthew 11.28-30
As we rejoice in the coming of our salvation, may we pray that God would bring mighty deliverance to those who have never heard of Jesus' forgiving grace.

Week Two
The Good Shepherd will gather "the lambs in His arms."
Isaiah 40.11
As gratitude for the wonder of the Incarnation fills our hearts, may we pray for workers who will share the truth of Jesus, the only begotten Son.

Week Three
Oh, the joy of believing in Jesus!
John 1.7
As we walk in Christ's light, illuminating our hearts, may we pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance to serve as witnesses who testify of Jesus' transforming grace.

Week Four
Jesus receives David's throne
Luke 1.32,33
As we wonder at how Jesus fulfills so many Old Testament historical realities, may we pray for those who need the salvation, peace, and rest that only Jesus can provide.

So let us pray. If you would like to pray any of these Scriptures back to the Lord—please join me on Google Meet on Wednesday, December 16 at 10:30 a.m. (https://meet.google.com/pac-tupm-dse).