



DECONSTRUCT: An Advent Devotional

Week 4

Pray

Deconstruct us, O God, by your word. Drive out all sin and evil from us and put us back together in ways that are pleasing in your sight so that we may serve you and love your creation all the days of our life. Amen.

Read Luke 1:46b-55

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

[Click Here to Watch the Video](#)

Pastor Nicolette Peñaranda, First Lutheran Church of the Trinity in the Bridgeport community of Chicago, IL

Confess

(If there is more than one of you, designate leaders to read the different L parts.)

L1: O God, you humbled yourself, taking on human form. We confess to you that you we have been proud. We have imagined that we know the best way to live and that others should see the wisdom of our way of life. In Jesus, you have invited us into deconstructing our ways. You have invited us to see the weakness of human power. You have invited us to see the power of weakness, the power of the cross.

(Share how your weaknesses have sometimes been strengths.)

L2: O God, you are abundant in every way. You gave all you had for our sake and you continue to be generous in ways we don't even know. Still, we hoard our wealth. We confess that we think we do not have enough to share. Help us to be generous with our riches.

(Share a way in which God may be calling you to be generous.)

L3: O God, you called Mary to bear the savior of the world. You created us in your image and you call us, too, to bear Christ in our lives. We confess that we have failed to be faithful and courageous in your call to justice and mercy. Help us to be bold, like Mary, to rejoice in your calling to us.

(Name a way you are called to bear Christ in the world.)

Forgive

(If you are by yourself, read these words of promise as you make the sign of the cross. If you are with others, read this to another person and make the sign of the cross on the person's forehead.)

Child of God, you are forgiven. God has looked on you with favor. God lives in you. God loves you. With Mary and all the saints, go now and bear Christ's mercy, justice, and love to the world. Amen.

Action – BODY

The body is where God chose to show up in the flesh. The body is good and holy and wise and divine. The body has the power to engage actions that lead to abundant life and human flourishing. When these actions are in alignment with our mind, heart, and soul, transformation occurs. The work of deconstruction includes reflection and action.

- How would you engage your body if you truly believed it was made in the Image of God?
- What bodies are in your life that are different from your body? What is this difference inviting you to notice?
- What actions are you being invited to take that are in alignment with what you believe and what you value?

Commit to doing ONE thing this week that reflects your commitment to embody your faith.

Advent 2020 Week 4

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