GIVE A LITTLE. REACH OUT A LOT.

REVERSE ADVENT

A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE OF REACHING OUT

A BETHLEHEM QUESTION

In a time of uncertainty, Mary and Joseph gathered what they had and traveled to Bethlehem. What would they eat? Would they be warm? What did they need for themselves and their baby?

GIVE INSTEAD OF RECEIVE

A Reverse Advent Calendar turns the familiar Advent tradition around: instead of receiving a small gift each day, we give to people in need. Our congregation will focus on the four Sundays of Advent, with a different theme each week.

HOW TO TAKE PART

1. Gather items for each week's focus.
2. As a family, decide when and how you will take part. Bring items week by week, or bring everything at once—whichever works best for you.
3. On Sunday morning, bring your items or a monetary contribution to worship and place them by the Advent display at the front of the church.

FOUR SUNDAYS. FOUR WAYS TO CARE.

1 FOOD Non-perishable food	**2 WARMTH** Hats, gloves, scarves & socks
3 EVERYDAY CARE Basic toiletries	**4 BABIES** Items for infants & toddlers

Bring donations on the Sunday that matches the weekly focus—or bring them all at once. The display will remain in place throughout all four weeks of Advent. In place of physical donations, monetary donations can also be made through your offering envelope or e-transfer. Please make sure to indicate the donation is for Reverse Advent.

Your gifts will support local neighbours through our Social Ministry Partners.

Helping the Homeless • Edmonton Food Bank • Basically Babies



THE FOUR WEEKS OF GIVING

Choose a focus, bring what you can, and make room for generosity.

WEEK 1 | FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

What food would Mary and Joseph need for their journey to Bethlehem?

BRING: Bring non-perishable food items for neighbours experiencing food insecurity. Donations support Helping the Homeless and the Edmonton Food Bank. You might want to include a variety of proteins, items for school lunches, and items that don't require extra items to be cooked (i.e. Kraft dinner usually requires milk and butter/margarine – which aren't always available).

AT HOME: Talk about the role food plays in your own life. Pray for families in our community living with food insecurity.

WEEK 2 | WARMTH & CLOTHING

What did they need to stay warm?

BRING: Bring warm clothing such as hats, gloves, scarves and socks. Items will be distributed by Helping the Homeless at Butler Park. Gloves, mitts, and hats are some of the most requested items at the park, and are important to help reduce incidents of frostbite.

AT HOME: Talk about the clothes you wear to stay warm in winter. Pray for people with little or no shelter from the cold.

WEEK 3 | EVERYDAY CARE

How would they care for themselves?

BRING: Bring basic toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, shampoo, combs, and nail clippers or files. Items will be distributed by Helping the Homeless at Butler Park. Travel (or hotel) sizes are ideal for these donations.

AT HOME: Talk about the things you need each day to care for yourself. Pray for people who often have to choose between food and basic care items.

WEEK 4 | CARING FOR BABIES

How would they care for a baby?

BRING: Bring baby items for infants and toddlers supported by Basically Babies. Items most currently needed are Sleepers (size 3-24 months), Bath towels, and Snow Suits. Items do not need to be new, but should be clean and in good repair. Basically Babies does not supply bottles, diapers, or baby wipes, so please consider other items for donation.

AT HOME: Talk about the many ways babies depend on caregivers for their basic needs. Pray for those learning to care for their infants and toddlers. More information about Basically Babies and their work is available here: basicallybabies.org.

A NOTE FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS OUTSIDE EDMONTON

Not in the immediate Edmonton area? You are encouraged to donate items to your local food bank or social service agencies.

Thank you for making generosity part of the journey to Christmas.