

A Very Tov Advent Devotional

Week 2 | Peace | Jenn Hershberger

The Christmas season is a time of wonder and expectation, a celebration of the miracle of Christ's birth. It's a season marked by candlelight, the familiar sentiments of "peace on earth," and the quiet beauty of snow-covered evenings. Yet, even amid this beauty, many of us carry heavy burdens—worries about the future, unmet expectations, and the relentless busyness of life.

In Matthew 6, Jesus offers a tender invitation: to let go of our worries and trust in the Father's care. *Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?*" These words are not merely a command to stop worrying; they are a call to step into the way of peace, to lean into the goodness of God with childlike trust.

Advent is a time of waiting, but it is far from passive. It is a time to live with expectancy, leaning into the promises of God and remembering that peace entered the world in the most unexpected way. On that first Christmas night, the Prince of Peace came not with grandeur but in the humblest of settings—a stable beneath a starlit sky surrounded by the simplicity of creation. Perhaps there were birds nestled in the rafters or singing in the night air, a quiet reminder of the harmony woven into God's design.

When Jesus points us to the birds, He is not offering a quaint metaphor but an invitation into something deeper. The birds trust their Maker with every wingbeat, and their simple lives bear witness to God's provision. They remind us of the *tov*—the goodness and harmony God wove into creation from the very beginning. This *tov* is not just an abstract concept; it is the foundation of peace, a restoration of trust in the One who holds all things together and the One who came to be with us.

My prayer for you is this - Father, teach me to trust as the birds trust. Forgive me when I let worry and the chaos of the season take root in my heart. Remind me of Your faithful care. Guide me in the way of peace as celebrate Christ's birth, help me to notice Your peace in the world around me. May I live fully in Your provision and share Your peace with those I meet. Amen.