



## DECONSTRUCT: An Advent Devotional Week 1

### 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 Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
2 as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
4 From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
5 You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,

and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

- <sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
- <sup>8</sup> Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

**[Click Here to Watch the Video](#)**

Pastor Noah Hepler, Atonement Lutheran, Philadelphia, PA

**Confess**

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

L1: O God, there is so much pain in your world. By your justice and mercy,  
deconstruct us. Hear us as we confess what we do and what we see.

*(Take time to name the things that you see and experience the difficulties in your own life and in our world.)*

L2: O God, in the midst of so much sin, brokenness, violence, disease, and  
opposition, we confess that we feel weak, helpless, hopeless, and lost. Yet we  
remember the ways you have been good to us in the past, that you are good to us  
now, that you will be good to us in the future.

*(Take time to recall the ways God has been good in the past or is good now – to you, to others, in scripture, in history.)*

L3: O, God, we thank you that you have been good to us in the past. We need you  
to come to us again in your goodness and love. We need you to deconstruct us, our  
communities, and our world. Tear open the heavens and come down that we might  
be cleansed of our sin and made new again in your image. Come to us, O God, for  
we are your people.

*(Take time to name all those who are in need of God's saving power.)*

### **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 were created good, in God's image. By the power of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven of your sins and restored to the beautiful creation that you are. Live with the confidence that you are God's own – beloved, forgiven and called to serve. Amen.

### **Action – MIND**

Our beliefs are powerful. They inform our being and our behaving. Beliefs often evolve as life happens – what you may have believed at one point in your life might not be something you believe today. The work of deconstruction invites us to interrogate our beliefs as we seek to align our being with our behaving.

Write down 3-4 beliefs you have about anything. This could be a belief that comes from your faith, a belief you have about yourself, or a belief you hold about others. Ask yourself the following questions and reflect on your responses.

- What informs this belief? Where did this belief come from?
- Is this belief life-giving? Is this belief life-taking?
- How does this belief serve you?

Take time this week to notice how your beliefs operate in your life. Do they lead you to make quick judgements or do they invite you to wonder about what you're experiencing?

Create a list of beliefs you want to embody as you engage this Advent journey.

### **Advent 2020 Week 1**

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