



**Date:** December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023

**Title:** The Name of the Moment

**Scripture:** Luke 2.1-14

### **Introduction to Analog**

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else.” Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

### **Teaching Season**

Throughout December we will step away from our series on Luke to participate in Advent. Advent is a significant season in the Christian church that marks the beginning of the liturgical year. Spanning the four weeks leading up to Christmas, Advent is a period of anticipation, reflection, and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

### **Teaching**

Advent is something we many are familiar with. Each year we ready ourselves for the coming of our king, Jesus. It is a season. A moment. A way of organizing our time. And we dare not lose the organizing of our time, because then we are just left with something else, something out of rhythm, something that has no beat – static, mush, white noise. But with Advent, we find ourselves pausing, expecting, looking ahead, anticipating, because something invaded our calendars and offered cadence.

It's always been this way. From the very beginning we learn that time was built into the fabric of the cosmos. The creation poem in Genesis 1 has it’s own cadence: evening and morning. Day and night. Dark and light. This wisdom teaches us that darkness has its place in keeping a rhythm for our very lives. This is something modern science is teaching us too; our bodies need darkness to establish a rhythm for health. Without the darkness there is just static.

Listen to the teaching online or on the DCC App

**Opening Question for the Group:** Start your group discussion with the question below.

1. During this Advent season, if you could travel back in time to witness any event leading up to the first Christmas, which moment or scene would you choose, and why?
2. Alternatively, is there any Christmas season in your own life you would travel back to?

### **Questions for Discussion or Reflection**

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. How might your reading of Genesis 1 be shaped if you read it is a poem?
2. What strikes you when you consider the idea that God created darkness?
3. When you consider time, how would you define it?
4. Tell a bit of your story - notice how you frame it around moments in time.
5. Where are you as we begin Advent? And how might this moment allow you to experience the sacred?

### **Spiritual Practice:**

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Advent Week 1 2022](#)