Do you see the night watch in the tower? Can you think of a time when you had to wait for something you really wanted? Not just waiting for a special meal or gift, but a time when you had to wait patiently to feel happy — like waiting to be able to see a long-lost friend or enjoy a celebration. Like then, this is a time to wait patiently for Jesus.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16
Do you see the wide night sky? Too often, we equate darkness as negative, lacking or even sinister. Yet, night comes with its own goodness and offers its own gifts. The poet’s night sings of the protection and comfort found in the “shadow of Almighty” (Psalm 91:1). In the shadows of darkness, God waits with us. How is God walking you through the darkness in this season?

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14
Do you see the mother holding her infant? The Holy Family isn’t the only place we see a newborn in the image. The love that surrounds these two infants will be the deep cultural meaning. We still yearn for justice in our world in so many ways. As people of God, how are we working for change? How do you feel God’s love for you today?

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19
Do you see the elders? Who is the oldest person you know? Have you ever learned an essential lesson from someone older that you would not have learned otherwise? What have you learned as you have grown older? What are the challenges and gifts of your age?

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25
Do you see what God sees? Consider for a moment the image in its entirety; see how it is made up of many smaller moments. Imagine what God saw at the moment of the Incarnation. In all of his human uniqueness, Jesus is born to and represents each of us. As God has become one of us, our Christmas joy is that we now draw close to God with our lives.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17
Do you see the elders? Who is the oldest person you know? Have you ever learned an essential lesson from someone older that you would not have learned otherwise? What have you learned as you have grown older? What are the challenges and gifts of your age?

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18
Do you see Joseph? Joseph did not plan on being Jesus’ father, but he took on the role willingly. Families have different configurations, shapes and stars. Consider all those connected to you through DNA, marriage and other bonds of love and loyalty. How is your family unique?

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19
Do you see the resting lamb? Lambs are known to be gentle and peaceful animals. The Bible sometimes describes Jesus as a lamb and we often hear that “Jesus is the lamb of God.” Why do you think that is? What does it mean that Jesus is both the Lamb of God and the Good Shepherd?

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
Do you see Mary? Mary’s brave “yes” to the angel’s call to be the mother of Jesus allowed God to be born in the world in a new and wonderful way. How can you repeat Mary’s fiat, her answer of “yes, let it be done to me.” How will you let your heart become a dwelling place of God?

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21
Do you see the dove? Did you notice the dove in the image, circling over the stable? The universal symbol of peace and promise, the dove holds deep cultural meaning. We still yearn for justice in our world in so many ways. As people of God, how are we working for the world around us to know justice and to know peace?

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
Do you see the keystones? The keystones are at the top of each doorway and window in the image. How many do you see? The keystone provides the tension to stabilize the opening and is a pivot point, the point at which we begin moving a different way. How is Jesus your keystone as both a pivot point and a stabilizing force?

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25
Do you see Jesus? Consider for a moment, the child in the manger. Our Savior does not come in armor. The child is not arrayed in political power or strength. The might of the Savior is in his vulnerability. Now and at the cross, it will be his vulnerability that will show us how to live, love and be saved. How do you feel God’s love for you today?