



b. “What are advantages and disadvantages of doing so?”

4. Adam Hamilton “also notes that Christmas and Easter are a package deal.”

a. “What does he mean?”

b. Could one be more meaningful than the other? Explain.

5. Do you think that “the hope Mary experienced in the resurrection [and the ascension] transformed the grief, separation, and loss she carried with her following Jesus’ death”?

Quotations taken from *Not a Silent Night: Leader Guide* by Martha Bettis Gee, p. 23–25.

### Advent Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus. We enter this time of Advent with great hope. As Mary had complete hope in the promise her son brought to this world, may we, too, have hope in the promise Jesus continues to bring to all of us today. With the Holy Spirit may we, in this season, prepare for Jesus. May we prepare for his promise of his life and love. Amen.



*Touching heaven, changing earth  
with head, heart and hands*

**Sunday, November 27, 2016**  
**Acts 1:8-14**

*We offer these questions for reflection during the service or during your week. Ponder them yourself, or discuss them with friends. Many small groups use them for discussion; if you would like to participate in a group, visit [www.laumc.org/grouplife](http://www.laumc.org/grouplife).*

1. What do you think about Jesus ascending into heaven?

a. Do you believe it?

b. Why was it important (or not)?

2. What do you think Mary is feeling and thinking in this scripture story as Jesus ascends into heaven? How might her perspective be different from the others who are watching him ascend?

3. In the book *Not a Silent Night*, Adam Hamilton “notes that we know very little about the end of Mary’s life and so are left with traditions that evolved in the early church.”

a. “How do you feel about the use of church tradition (Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox) to fill in parts of her life that aren’t covered by Scripture?”