

# ADVENT RESOURCES



Advent is a season in which both lament and hope reside. We lament the depths of pain, suffering, sin and death that we and our world encounter. And we hope in Jesus who has come and will come again to bring the heights of healing, joy, reconciliation and life.

As we wait for Jesus, the realities we lament are not beautiful – they are often broken and seem useless – and the act of lament allows us to turn toward God in the midst. As we present our struggles to God, we are turned toward the one who has come and will come again. The hope of Christ can spring up in the midst of the darkness.

The resources listed below have been collected to provide companions with whom to lament and who will invite you to put your hope in Jesus all over again.

## COMPANIONS FOR LAMENT AND HOPE IN ADVENT

### ADVENT RETREAT—PREPARE YOUR HEARTS (NOV 29, 10AM - NOON)

As Advent starts, come away for a couple hours of guided lament before God in the desire for hope to take root.

#### ONLINE:

1. The [Anglican Compass](https://anglicancompass.com/advent) provides some introductory information about what Advent is and suggests daily practices, Advent prayers/collects, and Advent music to listen to and even sing in your own home. (<https://anglicancompass.com/advent>)
2. [24-7 Prayer \(Lectio 365\)](https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365) offers access to a daily prayer app which follows the church seasons and many other prayerful opportunities. (<https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365>)
3. [Kate Bowler](https://katebowler.com/advent) offers a blessing-filled set of options with several Advent daily devotionals to choose from. (<https://katebowler.com/advent>)
4. [The Bible Project](https://bibleproject.com/guides/advent) provides a guide to Advent with compelling visuals and narration. These concise insights are deeply rooted. (<https://bibleproject.com/guides/advent>)
5. The [Homely Hours](https://thehomelyhours.com/welcome-2/advent) is great for families including young children: daily practices, rich resources, excellent printable Advent Wreath order of service, etc. (<https://thehomelyhours.com/welcome-2/advent>)
6. The [Advent Project 2025](https://ccca.biola.edu/advent/2025) is a thoughtful daily offering that includes artwork, reflections and poetry throughout the Advent season. (<https://ccca.biola.edu/advent/2025>)

**BOOKS:** *Our parish resource centre is a good place to browse for options.*

Various Authors, *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas* [Insights from across the ages that invite a slowing in anticipation of the Light]

Steve Bell, *Pilgrim Year Series: Advent* [A thoughtful, engaging book providing background and insight on the first season of the church year]

Stephen Cherry, *Barefoot Ways: Praying through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany* [A collection of wonderful daily short poem prayers and meditations]

Stephen Cottrell, *Walking Backwards to Christmas* [Imaginative accounts of biblical characters' experiences that invite engagement in the stories]

Stephen Cottrell, *The Sleepy Shepherd* [An enchanting retelling of the Christmas story with beautiful illustrations for children and adults]

Jostein Gaarder, *The Christmas Mystery* [For those wanting an enchanting story to read together as a family or amongst friends from 1-24 December]

Tish Harrison Warren, *Advent: The Season of Hope* [A helpful reorientation to what is hopeful about Advent—audio book available on Hoopla (MJ library)]

Rachel Mann, *Do Not Be Afraid: The Joy of Waiting in a Time of Fear* [Meditations to explore God's gift of waiting and companionship in distress]

Greg Pennoyer, *God With Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas* [Devotionals for Advent to Epiphany illuminating the seasons beautifully]

Madeleine L'Engle and Luci Shaw, *WinterSong* [Great companions for a poetic journey through Advent]

Ashley Tumlin Wallace, *The Liturgical Home: Advent* [A thoughtful way to integrate Advent into your household practices]

Jane Williams, *The Art of Advent* [A collection of reflections on art for this season by a wonderful theologian]

Robin Wrigley-Carr, *Music of Eternity: Meditations for Advent with Evelyn Underhill* [Warm and encouraging meditations set with Psalms and prayers]

Brian Zahnd, *The Anticipated Christ: A Journey Through Advent and Christmas* [A highly recommended collection to help you slow down and wait when our secular world invites us to frenzy]

## **MUSIC:**

Before plunging into the avalanche of Christmas music, spend some time in the expectant music of Advent. A few specific suggestions (explore playlists):

Lowana Wallace [Porter – our friend!] – *Hymns & Carols*

Steve Bell – *Feast of Seasons and Keening for the Dawn*

Choir of Clare College, Cambridge – *Veni Emmanuel: Music for Advent*