

Women of Faith Resources: December 2020



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December Quotes

taken from *Ministry of the Arts 2020 Calendar*

“God is everything that is good and the goodness that everything possesses is God.” *Julian of Norwich*

“What happens to another, whether it be a joy or a sorrow, happens to me.” *Meister Eckhart*

“Every end is a beginning.” *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Featured Season: Advent

The liturgical season of Advent is designed and given to us as a way or a road on which we journey toward the celebration of Christmas and the Christmas Season. The four weeks preceding Christmas Day offer us reflection themes as a guide to deepening our life of faith, of hope, and of love.

This month’s offerings have been designed to bring especially hope, joy, and strength to us and to give us solace during this ongoing pandemic. We have had to adapt our ways of being over many, many weeks now. And, it seems, that we may face many more such weeks.

As we journey, then, toward the Feast of Christmas, toward the celebration of Christ's coming to earth, may we set our site heavenwards shouting out to God or whispering to God to stay near us, nearer than we have ever felt. May we encourage one another in the living of what may be for many of us, an unprecedented pilgrimage, a journey we could not have imagined last year at this time.

Scripture Quotes on Advent

As you pray, thank God for Advent. Or, as you pray, contemplate images of Advent -- you can search on Google Images.

John 1:6-9 *There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.*

Advent is the perfect season for us to pray, asking God to let us understand for whom, how, and when we can be a light of God for others and from whom we can receive this light of God.

Romans 15:5-7 *May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

Today, let us ask for the grace to welcome others on our pathways with hope-filled encouragement.

Isaiah 60:1-3 *Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.*

During these precarious times, seek God's nearness to you, letting God shine through you for others to see.

Some Practices for Advent

[Jesse Tree](#): Learn more about Jesus through stories from Jesus' family tree.

Gifts for Others: Take a few small gifts to a shelter for women and children or to your Church's Society for gifting those who have few material resources.

Write a Letter: to a family friend whom you cannot visit during this COVID time.

Buy a Small Gift: for a child in the long-term care wing of the children's ward, and bring a bouquet of flowers for his/her mother.

Raid the Pantry: for canned goods to donate to a charity.

Cookies in Gratitude: Take a plate of cookies and a homemade Christmas card to your doctor's office, library, church office, and/or dentist's office.

Remember Four-legged Friends: Wear Santa hats and take some doggie or kitty treats to your local shelter.

Faith-based Activities:

- Visit a "live" nativity scene.
- Go to a candlelight church service.
- Write a letter to Jesus, thanking him for the gifts you received throughout the year.
- Visit a local farm and talk about what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph to have a baby born in a stable.
- Type "On-line Advent activities" into your computer's search function.
- Decorate your Christmas tree and set-up a Christmas manger.

Spiritual Reading

The following essays and articles can nurture our sense of Advent in our daily life. You are invited to prayerfully reflect on the contents as you read.

[2020 Has Felt Like Advent All Year](#) by Caroline Cobb, November 23, 2020.

[Creighton University's Online Ministries](#) has a wide choice of articles and resources for your Advent reflection time.

Music for Advent

The music listed below can guide our entrance into this special liturgical season.

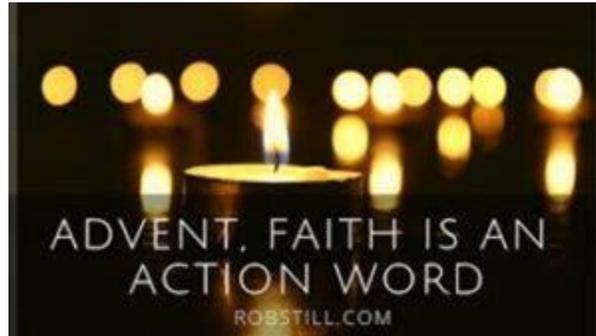
[Simple Advent](#). To listen to thoughtful music for Advent, listen to this Spotify playlist.

[Advent Carol Service from Trinity College Chapel](#) - Sunday 1 December 2019
Text for this service can be found [here](#).

[Advent Carol Service](#) at Dronfield Parish Church, 29 Nov 2020

Art for Advent

Spend some time in prayer as you gaze on the artwork below. Let the images of faith, hope, and love enter your heart to guide your daily lived experience of Advent.



robstill.com/advent-faith-is-an-action-word

Let the words of this image fill your heart. Ask your heart to reveal to you the action to which FAITH is beckoning you this Advent.



<https://rebekahmitchell.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/advent-hope.jpeg>

Pray with your experience of Jesus, HOPE for humanity, in the light and darkness of this image ... in the light and darkness of these our times ...



<https://progressivechurchplanting.blogspot.com/2012/12/liturgy-of-love-third-sunday-of-advent.html>

“Love came down when Heaven was born into earth.” The moment of Jesus’ birth is but one example of LOVE born into earth. Reflect silently on the words of this image. How and when have you known the truth of the saying: “Love came down when Heaven was born into earth.”

**Women of Faith say to every reader:
May this holy season of Advent guide your life to a joy-filled Christmas.
BLESSED DAYS FOR EACH OF YOU and FOR ALL OF US!**



Resources compiled by Sr. Yvette Bellerose, SSA