

## ‘Advent on Your Doorstep’: 2022 Assembly Advent Calendar

<https://uniting.church/2022adventcalendar/>

### 27 November

#### Reflect...

Light a candle and read this reflection, *Woven, Unwoven, Woven Again*, written by Palawa woman Alison Overeem with artwork by Grace Williams.

<https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Alison-Overeem-Advent-Resource.pdf>

#### Share...

What is something you hope for this advent?

#### Do...

Consider gifting a children’s book by an Aboriginal author as a Christmas gift – see our Living the Covenant Locally for some suggestions: <https://uniting.church/listen-and-learn/#el-d5864d5b>

**Contributed by Alison Overeem, Advocate of the Walking Together as First and Second Peoples Circle**

<https://uniting.church/walkingtogether/>

### 28 November

#### Do...

Hope, peace, joy and love are the traditional themes of Advent. Go out with someone (or by yourself) and find a leaf, a stick and a rock. Have fun choosing the ones you think are best. Then find a place together once you have found them and each share the following:

**LEAVES** – What is something from this year that you want to leave behind? It might be something to let go of or something of a legacy.

**ROCK** – What has rocked in your life this year. Maybe it is something that rocked in good way, or maybe it was a rocky time. How has that good time got you through some less good times, or what brought you through the rocky times?

**STICK** – what is something good that sticks with you from the year? ...Maybe some goodness of God or others, or a joy or a memory. What do you want to stick at doing or being as you move into a new year?

Keep your rocks, stick and leaves as a reminder, and give thanks that Christ, who is Immanuel - God with us - has been with you and will continue with you always.

**Contributed by Jon Humphries, Ravenswood Chaplain and Panel Member of the Growing in Faith Circle**

<https://uniting.church/growinginfaith/>

### 29 November

#### Do...

Where I live in Sydney at the time of Advent all the gum trees get these beautiful new red shoots on them, not forgetting the Christmas bush being out in full bloom, flannel flowers and yellow daisies

are also out in flower and dragonflies are whizzing around the place happily. It is almost as though they are getting themselves dressed for Christmas. I wonder what is flowering in your area?

Why not take some time to go for a walk in your local area, pay attention to what is flowering, what animals are around? Respectfully gather a collection of flowers and gum leaves to bring home and make a Christmas wreath. You can tie bunches together with, ribbon, cord or wire and hang it on your front door.

As you create it you could talk about what things bring you joy at Christmas time? What about the Christmas story do you like the most? How is being in an Australian Christmas important to you?

### **Pray...**

God of place and time, help us to make time to be present with you. Open our eyes to the beauty, joy and hope that you surround us with every day. Help us appreciate the little moments, the gentle touches, the flashes of colour and the softly spoken words of love. As we get ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus, help us to prepare our own hearts, bringing together the things that help us to better connect with You. As we grow closer to you may the joy and hope we gain flow through us to all we meet. In Jesus name. Amen

**Written by Rev Karen Mitchell-Lambert, Pulse Team Leader, NSW/ACT Synod**

## **30 November**

### **Do...**

Find a space in your house to decorate and make your Christmas/Advent space this year. You could make it on a wall, a small table, or a whole room in your home. You might like to include candles, a nativity scene or something joyful to remind you of the season.

### **Share...**

What have you done in the past to prepare for Christmas?

What are your favourite Christmas traditions?

Would you like to try something new this year?

### **Listen...**

Check out Jess' Advent and Christmas Playlist on Spotify (see link below for QR Code on pg 4)

### **Reflect...**

(excerpt of the first of 15 reflections on the characters at the heart of the Christmas story)

#### *God (Read John 1:1-5)*

We first encounter God in the creation stories of Genesis, where we find him brooding over the dark waters and literally speaking words that bring everything we know into being, and that breathes life into every living thing. The next 39 books of the Old Testament tell a sorry tale of selfishness, pain, greed, war, abuse, idolatry, suffering and almost every conceivable ill that people has subjected itself to, and yet the whole time God seems to be working on a comeback plan. All through the Old Testament we get hints that God is working on a way out. He is revealing himself and his plans. He is calling out a nation to be his treasured people. He is sending prophets and priests and Kings to foretell of a mighty day, one day, when God will do something amazing and unprecedented that will shake the world and reset the order of things and give the whole creation a chance to be put back right with God.

Read more in ***Journey to Joy: Advent and Christmas Reflections*** – five weeks of materials to help young and old to engage and go further in their discipleship journey this advent. Go here: <https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Journey-to-Joy-Advent-and-Christmas-Reflections-1.pdf>

**Contributed by Jessica Pinkerton, Mission Integration Project Officer - Uniting Early Learning, Queensland Synod**

Find all the Synod's resources here: <https://ucaqld.com.au/synod-services/communications/christmas/advent-2022-resources/>

## 1 December

**Do...**

**Light a candle...**

Pretend to be a flame as you say or sing this candle liturgy (to the tune of *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*). Remember to move like a flame. Traditionally, today's candle is purple or blue, so perhaps you can wear or put something on in these colours.

Little candle burning bright  
Light in my heart  
Hope tonight  
May it shine  
To others lives  
Waiting patiently tonight  
Little candle burning bright  
Light in my heart  
Hope tonight

**Pray...**

Prayers of the Peoples: Light a candle for everyone you know that needs your hope today.

**by Wendy Lewis. Find more Advent resources at: <https://thecrossinmybackyard.wordpress.com/>**

## 2 December

**Pray...**

Hope,  
Uncertainty leads my way  
Doubt keeps peeping on me  
Fear haunts me  
Desperation starts to become my buddy

In You, I Cling my hope  
Only you could comfort me  
Before You, I offer my Hesitation  
Because You still trust You

His Promise strengthens my hope

Devotion guides my heart  
His words restore my soul  
My pains anchor me unto Him

I will overcome dark time  
I will conquer my selfishness  
I will look down on my boast  
Because I hope in You

#### **Give...**

Give the gift of hope by buying a gift from UnitingWorld's Everything in Common online shop - each gift directly supports the project it represents, helping people overcome poverty through health, income and education opportunities.

<https://everythingincommon.com.au/>

**Maria Komboy, Jayapura, November 19, 2022**

**Contributed Maria Komboy, Micah Emerging Leaders Summit Delegate and member of our partner in West Papua, GKI-TP. With thanks to UnitingWorld.**

### **3 December**

#### **Do...**

Take a new or different route to work, or school, or around the block in your neighbourhood today. See how using a different route requires you to see the world differently — to pay a different kind of attention. What do you notice along the way that makes you stop and take a second look?

**from the Way of Love Calendar, The Episcopal Church**

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/04/Advent-2022-Calendar-English.pdf>

### **4 December**

#### **Listen...**

To the song, *All God's children (Yo Djamarrkuli)* from Gurrumul's Gospel album.

Read the Yolgnu translation translated by **Diane Walikurr and Wängarr Dhamarrandji from the Nungalinya Cert IV 2022 Graduating Class.**

<https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/All-gods-children-yo-djamarrkuli.pdf>

**Contributed by Michelle Cook, Walking Together as First and Second Peoples Circle and Nungalinya College**

<https://uniting.church/walkingtogether/>

### **5 December**

#### **Do...**

As you attend end of year events or Carols events, consider how you can be a blessing — who could you encourage, how can you show kindness, where could you offer to help or bring peace, who could you thank for organising and/or leading those events.

### **Pray...**

Gracious God, guide me to be a blessing to those around us, particularly those who are coordinating end-of-year or Christmas events. May I bring your gifts of peace, kindness and encouragement. May my actions point people to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

**Contributed by Melissa Neumann, Intergenerational Discipleship Developer, Synod of South Australia, and Panel Member, Discipling the Next Generations Circle**

You might like to check out the Christmas Family Faith Trail, a resource from the Synod of SA that invites households and small groups to explore the events of the Christmas story through five interactive stations across Advent.

<https://sa.uca.org.au/intergen/family-resources/>

## **6 December**

### **Reflect...**

Frontier Services Disaster Recovery Bush Chaplain Rev David Jackson, who provides ongoing pastoral care and support to communities in Mid-West WA in the aftermath of Cyclone Seroja, shares this Advent message - Emmanuel, God is with us.

**Contributed by Rev David Jackson and Frontier Services. Find out how you can support the work of the Bush Chaplains this Christmas** <https://frontierservices.org/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHx6eE\\_-aZg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHx6eE_-aZg)

## **7 December**

### **Reflect...**

#### ***Waiting***

So much time in waiting  
So many emotions involved in waiting  
For some – waiting for the floods to peak  
Or waiting for the floods to recede  
For others – waiting for the fire warning to come  
Or waiting for the rain to quench the fires

Every day waiting – for the bus, for the train, for the phone call, for the return of a loved one  
For students – waiting for exams to finish, for school to end  
For people waiting for surgery, for results of tests,

Children wait with anticipation for Father Christmas  
Advent calendars filled with chocolate count off the days in December till the big day  
We wait actively planning for Christmas, buying gifts, preparing food,  
Thinking of others, preparing to be hospitable.

In Advent we wait for something greater  
We wait for the fulfilment of God's promise, of the coming of God's rule  
The glimpse of the fulfilment of this promise we see in the birth of Jesus  
The promise that is there for us in the death and resurrection of Christ  
But still we wait in hope for the fulfilment of that promise of a kingdom of justice and peace

We wait actively as we work together,  
as we endeavour to participate in God's mission of the reconciliation of all things to each other and to God

As we become aware of the world around us,  
the needs of the world  
our waiting can take many forms as families or as individuals

We can give to the Christmas Bowl,  
we can give to others,  
we can work for justice in many ways  
Maybe our hospitality can be wider as we embrace others who are different,  
who are also waiting for friendship or support.

But we know we are part of a global movement of people waiting  
Of people celebrating Advent  
Of people looking for the coming of God's kingdom  
As people working together with God for the coming of God's Kingdom  
As churches we can know that we can work together,  
pray together, meet together  
and so we can wait in action.

#### **Share together...**

What are you waiting for?  
How are you waiting?  
Is there something more important you want?  
How will you wait for that?  
How does the Church wait?

**Written by Rev Marie Wilson, Panel Member for the Seeking Common Ground Circle**

<https://uniting.church/seekingcommonground/>

## **8 December**

**Do...**

**Colour...**

Choose and print one of the colouring-in sheets from Praying in Colour. Enjoy a few minutes of peace while you colour quietly on your own or with others in your family.

<https://prayingincolor.com/resources/advent-christmas>

**Praying in Colour is created by Sybil MacBeth**

## **9 December**

**Watch...**

This short video about Advent. Talk with someone else in your family about something that stood out to you, something you didn't understand or what Advent means to you.

**Video: Advent in Two Minutes by Busted Halo on Youtube**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eC0FGQLBp7w>

## 10 December

Do...

*Sit quietly and take some deep breaths to relax and focus yourself today*

This is one of a whole month of daily challenges from a simple countdown calendar for Advent & Christmas with Nativity Character Ornaments to colour. Best printed on an A4 card single-sided. Print and include with the Queensland Synod's Advent and Christmas reflections.

Download here: <https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Journey-to-Joy-Map-and-Ornaments-1.pdf>

**Contributed by Jessica Pinkerton, Mission Integration Project Officer - Uniting Early Learning, Queensland Synod**

Find all the Queensland Synod's Advent resources here: <https://ucaqlld.com.au/synod-services/communications/christmas/advent-2022-resources/>

## 11 December

Sing...

**Love has come**, a joyful song to sing together during Advent written by Rev David McGregor with video, sound recording, leadsheet and the lyrics available below.

**Lyrics:** <https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Love-has-come-LYRICS.pdf>

**Leadsheet:** <https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Love-has-come-LEADSHEET.pdf>

**Sound recording with vocals by Dale McGregor here:** <https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Love-has-come-VOCAL-D-to-E-flat.mp3>

### Love Has Come

1. Love has come on Christmas Day

God among us

Jesus born on Christmas Day

Love has come

2. Star-led magi worship him.

Gifts each giving

Jesus born to bring us God

Love has come

3. Shepherds hear the angel praise:

Joy. Peace. Glory

Bow before Emmanuel

Love has come

4. Christ, with you we celebrate!

Come among us

Love has found our hearts, a home

Love has come

5. Love is come on Christmas Day

God among us

Jesus born on Christmas Day

Love is come  
Love — is — come!

*David MacGregor © 2022 Willow Publishing*

Contributed by Rev David McGregor, Panel Member of the Transforming Worship Circle: <https://uniting.church/transformingworship/>

## 12 December

### Do...

Prepare and send a Christmas card to an older person. It might be an older family member (grandparent), or an older person you know from church. Use a blank card or make your own. Everyone can write their name and a short Christmas message on the card. **Discuss...** Some people don't have many friends or family at Christmas. Jesus gives us an example of caring for our friends, and all people.

Contributed by Warren Talbot, Campaign and Church Engagement Officer, Uniting Friends of Ageing, UnitingCare Australia  
<https://unitingcare.org.au/uniting-friends-of-ageing/>

## 13 December

### Do...

*Rev Cherie Strudwick has shared this creative colouring in activity that becomes an Advent meditation. First download and print the black and white heart shape, then follow the steps below.* <https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Heart-002-scaled.jpg>

Each year as December draws near, many of us look forward to celebrating Christ's birth. We want to focus on what really matters and prepare our hearts and minds to remember the birth of Christ and all that it means. One way to do this is by reflecting on what Advent means to us. In this exercise we allow ourselves to journey with PEACE, LOVE, HOPE and JOY.

Colour the drawing of Advent Love. Life is complex and seems to go round in twists and turns just like the drawing. Settle your mind and pray that God will be with you as you trace your finger around the ribbon. When you come to a word, pause and think about it, and let God speak to your heart.

Ask yourself some of these questions.

- What does the word mean to you?
- What does the word mean to the world?
- How is this expressed in your life?
- How can you experience this at a deeper level?
- What is God revealing to you?

Continue tracing your finger around the ribbon to the next word and repeat the reflections above. You may wish to write the words in, or to pick your own words, or leave it blank while you pause and allow the Spirit to touch your heart.



**Contributed by Rev Cherie Strudwick, Pastoral Relations Minister, Mid North Coast Presbytery**

## **14 December**

**Do...**

Go out into your neighbourhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God's presence in your community.

**from the Way of Love Calendar, The Episcopal Church**

**See the whole calendar here**

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/04/Advent-2022-Calendar-English.pdf>

## **15 December**

**Sing...**

Sing this simple song after the lighting of the Advent candle each week (to the tune of Frere Jacques)

Light of Jesus, Light of Jesus,  
Show the way, Show the way,  
Shine in us forever, Shine in us forever,  
This we pray, This we pray.

**from 'Christmas On The Move', Strandz**

See the resource here:

[https://www.strandz.org.nz/uploads/4/6/5/9/46590535/christmas\\_on\\_the\\_move2.pdf](https://www.strandz.org.nz/uploads/4/6/5/9/46590535/christmas_on_the_move2.pdf)

## **16 December**

**Do...**

Buy a present for someone in need, such as a toy for child, or a 'pamper pack' for an older person living in a nursing home. The present can be taken to the charity or a drop-off point.

**Share together...**

At Christmas it's nice to receive gifts from people who love us. Jesus tells us to love our neighbours, even people we may not know. In our wider Church, we have large numbers of people working to help children, families, older people. We try to help anyone in need.

*You might like to consider the Christmas appeals organised by Uniting Church agencies in different states.*

**Contributed by Warren Talbot, Campaign and Church Engagement Officer, Uniting Friends of Ageing, UnitingCare Australia**

<https://unitingcare.org.au/uniting-friends-of-ageing/>

## 17 December

### Pray...

A simple Advent Prayer in Niuean:

Ko e Atua e fakaalofa (God is love)  
Ko e Atua e fiafia (God is joy)  
Ko e Atua ne fanau mai ma e tau tagata oti kana (God coming to all people, to a diverse world)  
Haele mai kia mautolu (Come to us)  
Hane tatali atu ke he fanauaga he Mesia (in our time of Advent, preparing for the Messiah's birth)  
Fakapuke a mautolu ke he fakaalofa (Fill us with love)  
Fakapuke a mautolu ke he fiafia (Fill us with joy)  
Ke maeke ia mautolu ke kitia a koe (Enable us to see you)  
ke he tau fofoga he lanu tagata kehekehe (in the lives of our diverse communities)  
Foaki mai e tau loto (Give us hearts)  
ke logona e hofihofi haau a fakaalofa (to feel your compassion)  
ma e tau tagata oti; (for all peoples;)  
mo e tau lima (and hands)  
ke tatali mo e fekafekau atu kia koe (to serve the other in our waiting).  
Ke he higoa haana ne lilifu – (In the name of the glorious one –)  
hane tatali a mautolu he Kirisimasi, (the one we look to celebrate in Christmas.)  
Kitukituea. (Amen.)

*Photo: Niue National Conference, 2019*

**Written by Rev Dr Matagi Vilitama, Advocate for the Being a Multicultural Church Circle**

<https://uniting.church/beingamulticulturalchurch/>

## 18 December

### Reflect...

For me it is surprising that in finding out she was pregnant, Mary writes a song of praise to God. Somehow she understood that what was happening had implications far greater than just her small life. This special child she was carrying was going to change the world. I love the song she writes. Why not read it together...

**Luke 1:46 - 55**

*Mary's Song of Praise*

*And Mary[f] said,*

*'My soul magnifies the Lord,*

*and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,*

*for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.*

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;*

*for the Mighty One has done great things for me,*

*and holy is his name.*

*His mercy is for those who fear him*

*from generation to generation.*

*He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'*

**Listen...**

You could listen together to a version that someone has put to music. This was one I liked.. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6\\_iixWJo-7k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_iixWJo-7k)

**Contributed by Rev Karen Mitchell-Lambert, Pulse Team Leader, NSW/ACT Synod**

## **19 December**

**Listen...**

Frontier Services Bush Chaplain Julia Lennon sings this song of praise in the language of her Country. Recorded at the recent national gathering of Frontier Services Bush Chaplains in Sydney. Find out more about Julia's ministry of care and her vision to create spaces for healing in her community in Oodnadatta in outback SA: <https://frontierservices.org/healing-waters-in-australias-driest-town/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSB1auHbAKA>

**Contributed by Frontier Services**

<https://frontierservices.org/>

## **20 December**

**Pray...**

*A Prayer on Advent Joy in Indonesia and English*

Menanti didalam suka cita

Masa menanti  
adalah  
masa dimana mata hati  
kita arahkan kepada Dia yang datang

Masa menanti  
adalah  
masa dimana pengharapan mengalahkan rasa putus asa  
masa dimana suka cita menggantikan duka cita

Menanti didalam suka cita  
adalah

menanti didalam iman dan harapan  
menunggu diantara janji dan kenyataan

Menanti didalam suka cita  
adalah  
menanti Sang Mesias  
yang datang  
dan  
tinggal diantara kita

Bersuka cita bersama Sang Mesias  
adalah  
bersuka cita didalam pengharapan  
dan  
membuat iman menjadi kenyataan

Suka cita  
adalah  
anugerah pemberian Sang Mesias  
buat  
kita yang menanti

Amin

#### Advent Joy

Advent  
is a time  
when the eyes of our hearts  
are  
directed to the Messiah who comes

Advent  
is a time  
when hope overcomes despair  
when joy replaces sorrow

Waiting in joy  
is  
waiting in faith and hope  
waiting between promises and reality

Waiting in joy  
is  
waiting for the Messiah  
to  
come and live among us

Rejoicing with the Messiah  
is  
rejoicing in hope

and  
making faith come true

Joy  
is  
the gift of the Messiah  
for us who wait

**Amen**

*Photo: Indonesian Christmas Celebration at Glen Waverley Uniting Church in Melbourne, 2018*

**Written by Rev Dr Apwee Ting, National Consultant, Assembly Resourcing Unit**

## **21 December**

**Light a candle...**

Pretend to be a flame as you say or sing (to the tune of *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*) this liturgy. Remember to move like a flame. Today's candle is pink, perhaps you can wear or put on something that is pink. Do a few star jumps as your flame jumps for JOY.

Little candle burning bright  
Light in my heart  
Joy tonight  
May it shine  
To others lives  
Sharing what we have  
Is nice  
Little candle burning bright  
Light in my heart  
Joy tonight

**Pray...**

Get a pack of Christmas stars (cardboard with a shiny metallic side) and write on the non-shiny side the name of people that make your like JOYful. If you can't find any, cut stars out of metallic cardboard. Pray for the person as you hang the star on a Christmas Tree.

**Written by Wendy Lewis. Find more Advent resources at:**

<https://thecrossinmybackyard.wordpress.com/>

## **22 December**

**Do...**

Bake your usual Christmas biscuits and give them to neighbours with an invitation to your church's Christmas service or with a blessing such as, 'May your Christmas be filled with God's gifts of peace and joy'.

**Pray...**

God of joy, may this gift of baking be a blessing for (*names of neighbours*). May they experience your gifts of peace and joy this Christmas season. Please give me courage and wisdom to share my

experiences of your peace and joy in my life. May my neighbours be open to hearing more about you and joining me at church. May these biscuits be a beginning point of us sharing the blessing of being neighbours who care for one another.

**Contributed by Melissa Neumann, Intergenerational Discipleship Developer, Synod of South Australia, and Panel Member, Discipling the Next Generations Circle**

You might like to check out the Christmas Family Faith Trail, a resource from the Synod of SA that invites households and small groups to explore the events of the Christmas story through five interactive stations across Advent.

<https://sa.uca.org.au/intergen/family-resources/>

## **23 December**

### **Do...**

Grab a piece of fruit that you can peel, like an orange or mandarin.

With others, take it in turns to peel one segment each and pray for someone you know or for a situation in our world. Then eat the segment and pass the fruit.

On your own, the process is basically the same! Enjoy the whole fruit as you pray quietly or out loud for your community and world.

## **24 December**

### **Pray...**

*On the eve of the birth of Jesus, the light of the world, pray together*

God, ancient of days,

On this day when our watching and waiting are met by the joy of Jesus' birth,

Take our watching and keep us ever alert to injustice and impatient for justice to reign,

Take our waiting and make us patient in compassionate care of neighbour,

Take our joy in Christ's birth that it might sustain us in hope throughout the new year.

We pray in the name of Christ. Amen

**Written by Uniting Church in Australia President Rev Sharon Hollis**