



Advent 2017 – Epiphany 2018

North East Region: Darlington & Newcastle-upon-Tyne Districts



Daily Readings – Week Five

The story continues as we join the travellers following the star from afar...

Sunday 31 st	John 1: 9-10
January 2018	
Monday 1 st	Matthew 5: 14
Tuesday 2 nd	1 Peter 1: 3
Wednesday 3 rd	Matthew 2: 1-2
Thursday 4 th	Matthew 2: 3-8
Friday 5 th	Matthew 2: 9-11
Saturday 6 th	Matthew 2: 12
Sunday 7th	Matthew 2: 13-15

Commissioning:

God you called, you cared, you challenged, you directed, you nurtured, you mentored, you put people in my path to share in the joy and the experience of serving as your disciple. How richly blessed I am, how honoured I am at your calling and how fulfilled I feel. I want to serve you to the end of my days. Fill me, inspire me, equip me I pray.

Amen.

Rev. Loraine N. Mellor
President of the Methodist Conference 2017-18

Christmas is not the end of the journey

Our Advent Hymn was to the tune of 'As with gladness men of old'. Here is an additional verse by Joseph Harper which leads onwards from Christmas:

See from far Star shining bright;
See the Manger view in sight;
Shepherds, Wise men, Oxen too
Mary, Joseph, Babe in view.

Here's Eternal Love Made known...in
Crib, the Cross and Empty Tomb.

Rev. Dr Joseph Harper
Visiting preacher, North West Durham Circuit

Returning by another route?

We have journeyed through Advent to Christmas and now beyond.

We paused at the manger.

We wondered.

Yet, nothing stands still for long.

The baby grew into a man.

We too move on, returning to 'normality' by a new route.

The same, yet changed.

Mission accomplished, and yet mission just beginning.

Waiting

Lord of today I'm here waiting.

Today like any other day,
but also like no day that ever was.

Unique, just as I am, waiting for your stamp to be laid upon it.

Was that how those so wise men travelled?

Moving into the unknown,
Following a different path,
travelling with hope of - what?

Even though they did not know the details, still they set out.

Travelling expectantly, not knowing what they would find,

Travelled with gifts to offer, not knowing who they were for.

As we travel this new year, new season, new journey –
travel with us Lord, and be there when we arrive.

Revd Pat Brooks, Newcastle West Circuit



Celebration

leads to

Commission



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Thank you to all who have contributed in writing, distributing and using these prayers and reflections.

Incarnation

It should have been so special: the son of God
- announced by an angel heralding his greatness –
growing within her womb; recognised by an unborn child
who, at her greeting, jumped for pure, pre-natal joy.

But then came pointed looks, Joseph's unspoken doubts,
the heavy, sluggish journey to a southern city
- bursting at the seams with teeming humanity - culminating
in doors shut in their desperate faces, frantic arguing,
and the eloquent exhaustion in her pleading eyes.

And now it had come to this: the outhouse of an inn,
blood and sweat and straw; the child, tearing
his way into the world – from darkness into light;
between her pains she watched the cross beam
up above her head, studying its rough-hewn shape.

A strange beginning for the chosen one of God,
coming to life in squalid poverty and deprivation,
in a land oppressed by power of arms; where citizens
- herded like the cattle whose stall she borrowed –
were numbered for a foreign ruler's whim.

Such an ordinary birth: and yet she knew
as he was born, the world would never be the same again.

© Carol Dixon, United Reformed Church Lay Preacher
South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area

Have you found Advent – Epiphany useful?

Would similar resources be useful in future?

Please send us your feedback to thegreat50days@gmail.com or to Tricia Mitchell (details below)

Thank you for helping us.

Looking Ahead

The Great 50 Days booklet offers a daily reflection and reading between Easter and Pentecost. Each reflection is written by a different person from the North East region. If you would like to receive The Great 50 Days daily reflections by email please register your interest [here](#).

Daily emails will begin on 1st April 2018.

Tricia's email and phone: mitchellt@methodistchurch.org.uk 07799 900454

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/ne>

Thank you for travelling with us.

Pause

Take a moment to be still.

To notice God.

To be thankful.