



# Advent 2017 – Epiphany 2018



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

## Daily Readings – Week One

This week the readings introduce the themes of Light and Lamentation; celebrating God’s goodness while recognising that we live in a damaged and hurting world.

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Genesis 1: 1-5
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	John 1: 1-5
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Isaiah 64: 6-8
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	John 3: 19
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Malachi 3: 7
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup>	Lamentations 5: 15-17
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Hosea 10: 13
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lamentations 5: 19-21
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 64: 1

(more upbeat topics will follow!)

### Ready?

Are you ready? Advent calls.  
‘Ready for what?’ we may reply.  
To open ourselves up to others’ needs,  
To follow your call on our lives, Lord.  
But so often do we promise to follow you,  
but then stay where we are;  
Not changing how we think,  
how we see others, how we act.  
Lord this year help us to change,  
to grow, to go...  
In your name Lord we pray. Amen

*Revd Pat Brooks, Newcastle West Circuit*

### Zimbabwe in Advent

A world in chaos,  
looks forward with hope.  
Lamenting the sins of the past;  
looking forward to new possibilities;  
longing for the peace of the Christ-child.  
When fear is tingled with expectation;  
military vehicles patrol the streets;  
the future still uncertain:  
Come, Lord Jesus.

*Inspired by the news of political change in Zimbabwe, resonating with our own lives as we look to Advent and Christmas in a changing world.*

Lamentation

As we prepare for the joys of Christmas,  
Let us remember those families  
where there are tensions and worries,  
where the thought of Christmas brings only dread.  
May they feel you near and want to turn to you.  
Help them to see in the lights  
and excitement all around  
that you can bring hope, you can bring joy,  
you can bring peace, it’s there for all.  
Lord share these gifts with them this Christmas.  
Amen

*Diane Whitfield  
PA to the Chair of Newcastle upon Tyne District*

Prophecy

### #wonderfullyprophetic

Loving God, we gather together to be with you.  
Bless us with your presence as we prepare for  
the day.  
Fill us with joy as we praise your name  
through song and dance,  
Inspire our written words as we share our hopes  
and dreams for your Church, and your people.

Preparation

Come Holy Spirit, Come.  
Fill our hearts and overflow into every fibre  
of our being.  
Help us to use our voice and actions  
to be wonderfully prophetic in all we do today,  
and evermore.

Amen  
*Dionne McCreedy  
Children and Young People's Worker, West Durham Circuit*

Celebration

### Advent hymn (Tune: As with gladness men of old.)

Advent is a time of praise,  
Waiting through these winter days  
For the hope which Christmas brings  
Of new life, new beginnings.  
Advent praise to you we sing,  
May we know the hope you bring.

Gill Welsh, Superintendent, Lindisfarne Circuit.

Commission

*Would you like to contribute a prayer for a later week?  
See overleaf.*



Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network

North East



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They had studied and travelled for some time before we meet them in Matthew 2. Perhaps a long time. Carefully watching, steadily following. Did they travel at night to see the star? Did they ask others for help on the way before reaching Herod's Jerusalem home? They seem to have journeyed with purpose, uncertain where the route would take them and yet determined to answer the call, something extraordinary had drawn them away. They travelled expectantly.

Our journey begins here and we too travel expectantly, reading the signs as we go, watching, following. Perhaps we too will be surprised. Are you prepared to leave the comfort of the familiar, encountering new people and places on your faith journey in this special season?

Travel with us. Come and seek the new-born King who waits for you, for me, and for others. Come.

### Thank you Lord

for the peace of sleeping and for the joy of waking;  
for the joy of silence and the for joy of birdsong and of music;  
for the joy of solitariness and the joy of togetherness;  
for the joy of stillness and for the joy of activity;  
for the quiet of the mountainside and for the bustle of the city;  
for the joys of morning and for the joys of evening;  
for the joy of waking and for the peace of sleeping.

*Alan Coustick, Supernumerary Presbyter  
Barnard Castle & Teesdale Circuit*

“There is no-one we cannot like”

(3Gen participant)

Forgive me, God, when I do not take time  
to listen to the other's story;  
When I judge on what I see,  
without taking time to get to know;  
when I choose not to like  
one of your precious children.  
Forgive me and help me to grow in love.

**Expectant Dad:** “Within the next 4 weeks I will be a Dad or should I say a Father? It is easier to see myself as a dad than father; for some reason, the word father carries a lot more weight. The most popular reactions from friends and families are: “OMG! You are going to be Dad, how excited are you?” “Are you excited?” “You must be very excited?”

My reply with a smile on my face is “yes”; however I am in a place of silent anticipation. The first time my partner told me she was pregnant, after the second test, I acknowledged, yes our lives, my life, is about to change. As this would be our first child, what would this change look like? I do not know.

There are many things I do not know such as what would happen tomorrow. Nobody knows that, hence I do not know what will happen in the next 4 weeks. What I do is pray for strength for today, to be a pillar for my wife as the time of delivery draws near. I pray for good health for mother and son as we all race towards the finish line, to unite at the end with tears of joy or hysterical laughter, to continue our walk with Christ together as a family. This is my silent anticipation.

My prayer is that God grants us all strength for today, a strong heart to carry the fears and anxieties of what is ahead.”  
*Tunde Sobitan, Sunderland SAMBA Project*

**What is your Advent story?** Who might you tell?

Some of the thoughts and prayers in this series were written at **3Generate**, the Methodist Youth Assembly which was entitled “Wonderfully Prophetic”. Our young people inspire and challenge us as Advent begins.

Are you too prepared to be Wonderfully Prophetic? Are you ready to participate? Will you take a risk?

Come, the journey begins, don't be left behind.

To contribute a short reflection or prayer for a future week please contact Tricia or look on our webpage for further information. Tricia's email and phone: [mitchellt@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:mitchellt@methodistchurch.org.uk) 07799 900454

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