



Advent 2017 – Epiphany 2018



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

Daily Readings – Week Three

We listen for God’s voice in the familiar story as we approach Christmas with expectation.

Prepare the way.

Sunday 17th	Matthew 1: 20-23
Monday 18 th	Matthew 1: 24
Tuesday 19 th	Luke 1: 39-45, 56
Weds 20 th	Luke 1: 46-55
Thursday 21 st	Luke 1: 57-58
Friday 22 nd	Luke 1: 59-65
Saturday 23 rd	Luke 1: 66-79
Sunday 24th	Luke 2: 1-5

Coming

‘I’m coming!’

*Words of re-assurance
to a frightened child.*

‘Coming, ready or not!’

*Exciting anticipation
of being found.*

‘It’s coming now!’

*Time to relax
after a long wait.*

Lord Jesus, coming king,

*You take away our fear of the future,
You find us when we hide from you,
You fulfil all our longing expectation.*

Your coming

*comforts us,
thrills us,
settles us.*

Come again

*into our hearts,
in peace, in joy, in love,
this Christmas.*

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

It is not too late to join the mailing

Visit our regional news page at
www.methodist.org.uk/ne to register to receive
these weekly prayers by email.

Lamentation

Prophecy

Preparation

Celebration

Commission

Dear loving father of all,

May we open our eyes to your awesome majesty and the needs of the world around us; may we open our ears to your message to hear and greet the coming of the Christ child again, hearing the cries of your people who are in need of physical, mental and spiritual sustenance. Open our hearts to the needs of the people of the world. Amen

Margaret Beck, Consett Methodist Church

Lord God,

As we set out on another journey to celebrate the coming of Jesus your son, may we never forget there was no room for him but a dirty smelly stable, never forget that wrapped in rags, he slept in a cattle trough.

For if we do, we forget that everything Jesus said and did challenges us to be tools he will use to turn smelly dirty stables, into places of love and hope.

Lord Jesus, as we count down the days on our calendars, show us how to open the doors of our hearts and our purses, and give the greatest gift of all to those in need at this time, YOUR LOVE in action.

Lanchester Methodist Church, North West Durham Circuit.

Advent hymn verse 3 - Joy

(Tune: As with gladness men of old.)

Advent is a time of praise
Longing through these winter days
For the joy of Jesus’ birth
God of all, with us on earth
Advent praise to you we sing
May we know the joy you bring.

Gill Welsh, Superintendent, Lindisfarne Circuit.

*Would you like to contribute a prayer for Christmas or Epiphany? Please send contributions for the final 2 weeks to Tricia by Tuesday 19th December
mitchellt@methodistchurch.org.uk*



Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network

North East



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Sign up to receive your Advent to Epiphany weekly resource by direct email.

No! You must be joking. Not now.
You can't be serious – not Bethlehem, not now.
Not with a baby due at any time.
80 miles on dusty tracks?
Why? Why? Why?

Was there a carpenter's donkey?
Did they keep up with the travelling group?
Four, five, six days on the road?
Finding shelter, meeting friends?
Too late for a room.

Will I make room this week?

Surprised by God

Creator God, once again we hear your story.
An old woman and a young woman meet.
Each bears the seed of your creation;
Both surprised to find themselves "with child".
Both trusting in your purpose.

We too are created in your image.
We too find ourselves surprised.
We too carry your love within.
May our hearts jump for joy
as we greet your Son anew
this Christmas.

Pause to truly hear the story

So often we hear the whole Christmas story in one carol service. Wonderful as it is to recall the whole familiar story, we sometimes skim over the details.

In often busy lives, our readings this week are the opportunity to pause each day and approach the birth of Jesus in smaller steps. To pause and listen.

To hear the messengers, to walk the dusty road, to visit Elizabeth.

We invite you to pause.

If you are in the North Tyneside area you can drop in on **Christmas Present** – an exciting project featuring contemporary reflections on Christmas in images and poems.

The main display is in Cullercoats Coffee, John Street, Cullercoats, NE30 4PL (open daily 9-5) with further displays in local Methodist Churches.

To contribute a short reflection or prayer please contact Tricia Mitchell

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

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/ne> - our web pages on the Methodist Church website are being given a new look at present, we apologise for any disruption you are experiencing in accessing our information. Please persevere.