



## Advent The Season of Hope Tish Harrison Walker

Chapter 4 Stirring  
Chapter 5 Approaching  
Conclusion

Much of the material in this presentation was taken verbatim or almost verbatim from *Advent-The Season of Hope* by Tish Harrison Walker.

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## Chapter 4 Stirring: Four Prayers of Advent

- “Like the whole of the Christian calendar, Advent intends to teach us how to pray—and, through prayer, how to believe.” p 55
- Liturgical churches have therefore given us prayers as a way to form Christians across time.
- In the Anglican tradition, the Book of Common Prayer collects some of these.
- It also appoints prayers for each week, including the four weeks of Advent. The appointed prayers from this collection are called the “collect” of the week. p 56

2

## The Collects of Advent

- The Advent collects have been altered slowly over time.
- Originally, the season was mostly penitential in tone, mainly focused on preparation for Christ’s final return and judgment.
- But in the twentieth century that emphasis began to shift, largely through a close collaboration between Anglican, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox liturgical scholars—a surprising work of Christian unity. p 58

3

## Week 1 theme is HOPE (The Prophecy Candle)

- Cast Away The Works of Darkness
- Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. p 59

4

One passage often read is Romans 13:8-14

<sup>8</sup>Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

<sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

<sup>10</sup>Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

5

<sup>11</sup>And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

<sup>12</sup>The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

<sup>13</sup>Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

<sup>14</sup>Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

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**Week 2 theme is PEACE (The Bethlehem Candle)**

- Hear, Read, Mark, Learn, And Inwardly Digest
- Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. p 64

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One passage often read is 2 Peter 3:3-4

<sup>3</sup>Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

<sup>4</sup>They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

8

**Week 3 theme is JOY (The Shepherd's Candle)**

- You Sent Your Messengers The Prophets
- O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen. p 69

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- Jon Cosin, the seventeenth-century Anglican bishop who wrote this collect, drew inspiration from Matthew 11:10-11

- <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written:

- "'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

- <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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**Week 4 theme is LOVE (The Angel's Candle)**

- Stir Up Your Power, O Lord
- Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen. p 73

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Most common scripture reading is Luke 1:30-33

<sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

<sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

<sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

<sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

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## Chapter 5 Approaching: Eight Practices of Advent

- Prayer, Fasting, and Alms
- Recollection, Repentance, and Renewal
- Advent Calendars and Wreaths
  - Lego Harry Potter Advent Calendar (\$32.82)
  - Barbie Advent Calendar (\$29.99)

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## Conclusion

- Karl Barth wrote, “What other time or season can or will the Church ever have but that of Advent?” Our Christian life is a long practice in waiting—waiting for God to meet us, to grow us, to save us. And, ultimately, waiting for Jesus to set all things right. p 102

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- Warren writes: One of my favorite Advent memories is when, over a decade ago, I was ordained on Saint Nicholas Day. I was eight-and-a-half months pregnant. With my shockingly swollen belly, my procession down the aisle of our church during the ordination service was more of a waddle than anything dignified or ceremonial. When the others I was ordained with lay prostrate before the cross (and the bishop), I could only kneel, with a kicking, hiccupping, somersaulting human being inside of me. But what an apt picture of Advent. p 103
- Blessed Advent to you. And remember: our king is coming. Get ready.

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