

REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT 2018

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As Methodist Women in Britain we focus everything we do under three main headings: the worldwide church, global social justice, and creative spirituality. All three of these come together in these Advent Reflections written by some of our Methodist Women from the COGS Creative Writing Group in Knaresborough. Our hope is that you will be a blessing to others as you are blessed on our journey together through this season of Advent.

ADVENT 1: Sunday 2nd December 2018

ADVENT CALENDAR

The door is open so enter in,
The first has gone,
Then the second,
Now the third but still four beckons.
A little surprise behind each one,
A tree, a star,
A mini chocolate bar!

Be prepared to welcome your Christ
As your own kin;
The door is open, so enter in.

This Advent will you light a candle of hope?
Will you be a candle of hope?
Will you be the light that shines bravely,
a pinprick of light, breaking up the darkness?
Shine into the darkness, despair and hopelessness.
The light of hope shining until it cannot be missed, or ignored.
Will you be a candle of hope, of hope founded on God and his promises to us?



WAKE UP!

We are asleep.
It's dark and we long for the morning
When light will shine.
How long do we have to wait?
We sleep because it's like forever;
We are impatient for the light..
What if he comes this Christmas..
With his head crowned with light?
If this is to be,
Then it's high time to awaken!

ADVENT 2: Sunday 9th December 2018

ADVENT CALENDAR

The door is open so enter in,
The first has gone,
Then the second,
Now the third but still four beckons.
A little surprise behind each one,
A tree, a star,
A mini chocolate bar!

Be prepared to welcome your Christ
As your own kin;
The door is open, so enter in.

This Advent will you light a candle of welcome?
Will you be a candle of welcome?
Will you be the light that shines a welcome to all you meet?
Shine to welcome the lost, the lonely, the unloved.
The light of welcome, shining to greet our Saviour.
Will you be a candle of welcome in the name of Jesus?



ADVENT CRUX

OK, so here's the thing:
God gets a young girl pregnant.
She's rather stunned to say the least.
Sex before marriage is what it looks like.
Her relationship nearly breaks up.
Then she's on the move in late pregnancy.
Then she has to have the baby in a smelly cattle shed.
Then she's a refugee, on the move again.
What's that about?

GOD WITH US that's what.

Before time, this was on God's mind.
Sometimes He surprises us.
Sometimes things seem to be going downhill.
Sometimes we're out of our comfort zone.
Sometimes we find ourselves alone, in the shadows.

God is with us.

OK, so here's the thing.

Do we, dare we believe in a supernatural God?
Do we trust Him in all circumstances?
Do we want to be cosy, or confronted?
Lord, my answer here is often 'No'.

But God is with us.

Like never before we begin to understand
and know that God is FOR us, not against us.
That He gives and takes away.
That He KNOWS and UNDERSTANDS us.
Because He was there in the young woman.
In the cattle shed. On the road. He LOVES us.
Do we get it? Do we show it?

This Advent I will look again at God made man.
At God with us.
I will believe.

ADVENT 3: Sunday 16th December 2018

ADVENT CALENDAR

The door is open so enter in,
The first has gone,
Then the second,
Now the third but still four beckons.
A little surprise behind each one,
A tree, a star,
A mini chocolate bar!

Be prepared to welcome your Christ
As your own kin;
The door is open, so enter in.



This Advent will you light a candle of joy?
Will you be a candle of joy?
Will you be the one that sings the message,
joy to the world, the saviour comes.
The light shining when all seems bleak and joyless.
Will you be a candle shining with the joy of knowing Jesus?

ADVENT TO BIRTH

'Maranatha, come Lord Jesus'

Have you ever heard the phrase
'Be careful what you wish for?'

'Come, Lord Jesus'
Are we ready for that?

Are we ready for this controversial life style
Where the first shall be last
And the last first?

Where rough uneducated folk are given
Huge responsibilities
Of building Kingdoms?

Where prostitutes, tax collectors, lepers and
All sorts of undesirables are
Given equal shares and rights?

Where migrants, refugees, the displaced,
Vulnerable and homeless
Are put on a level with polite society?

Where money isn't everything and
Possessions and status unimportant
But treasure in Heaven is?

Where ambition, pride, love of power,
Is not our prime motive
But God's work is?

Jesus turns the world upside down
With His words, actions and ultimate sacrifice.

Love, grace, compassion, equality,
Forgiveness, selflessness.

Have you ever heard the phrase
'Wish what you care for?'

Maranatha, come Lord Jesus
As Advent advances into birth.

ADVENT 4: Sunday 23rd December 2018

ADVENT CALENDAR

The door is open so enter in,
The first has gone,
Then the second,
Now the third but still four beckons.
A little surprise behind each one,
A tree, a star,
A mini chocolate bar!

Be prepared to welcome your Christ
As your own kin;
The door is open, so enter in.

This Advent will you light a candle of love.
Will you be a candle of love?
Will you be the one that loves the unlovely,
going the extra mile for those that others reject.
Will you be a candle shining to say God so loved the
world that he sent his only son to save us.



THE WAITING

Burden of anticipation
Weighing heavy on the heart,
Waiting for the culmination-
Dread thought, could all fall apart?

Many recognise the feelings,
Straining nerves and trembling hope,
Wild or wonderful occurrences,
Challenging our strength to cope.

Final chapter, long awaited,
Christ our Saviour here again.
Do we doubt and fear expected
Joy will be alloyed with pain?

Do we find we're asking questions
Of the Man who set us free?
How can all our failed intentions
Not destroy our liberty?

No! Clothed in Christ, redeemed we'll stand,
Worshipping on that Crystal strand.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Tuesday 25th December 2018

ADVENT CALENDAR

The door is open so enter in,
The first has gone,
Then the second,
Now the third but still four beckons.
A little surprise behind each one,
A tree, a star,
A mini chocolate bar!

Be prepared to welcome your Christ
As your own kin;
The door is open, so enter in.

This Advent will you light the candle of Christ.
Will you be the light of Christ?
Will you shine even when the cruel winds blow
and your light starts to flicker?
The light shining when others try to put it out.
Will you be a candle shining with Jesus?
AMEN



Advent reflections (including 'Advent Calendar' © Sue Walkington, 2016) written by members of the COGS Creative Writers, Knaresborough Methodist Church, North Yorkshire.

<https://graciousstreetmethodist.org.uk/social-community/cogs-creative-writers/>