



CCOW Guide to Online Advent Resources (2018)

Are you looking for a different kind of "Advent Calendar" - one that will help you each day to look forward to Christ's coming and to pray for the world He loves? For daily reflections? Material to help prepare Sunday services? Here are suggestions of online materials – some familiar and some new.

- **A Rocha UK's** "Hope for the World" [online Advent calendar](#), written for the Paris climate talks, links climate issues to Advent themes. Reflections were written by a wide range of eminent Christians ... from Sir Ghillean Prance to Chris Bain to Ruth Valerio. Not new – but still helpful. Good one if your church is in the Eco Church programme?
- **Advent Conspiracy** offers four tents for Advent - worship fully, spend less, give more and love all. Its [website](#) has suggestions for living them out.
- **All We Can** offers helpful [reflections and prayers](#) for each Sunday's Advent candle lighting. They're linked to the Revised Common Lectionary. They're also linked to the charity's 'Extraordinary Gifts' scheme but can be used even if your church isn't involved with the scheme.
- Each day of Advent, **The Bible Society's** [Advent Challenge](#) will email you a group of challenges that will help you share good will with others; you can choose which to take up.
- The **Busted Halo** [introduction to Advent](#) is a snappy two - minute video that discusses what Advent is and isn't. Fun for all - great for youth. (There's a new version [here](#), too ... but we quite like the original ... as do many people. It's on 850K+ views!)
- **CAFOD's** [online Advent calendar](#) gives a daily Bible passage, reflection and prayer, and links with their World Gifts programme. They also have an interactive [Advent calendar](#) powerpoint for children – great for schools, a [reflective service for Advent](#) with a focus on refugees, and a [collection of Advent prayers](#).
- Don't forget **CCOW's** collection of Elizabeth's powerpoints and reflections. [Powerpoints](#) include the Advent Light series (excellent for praying for this year's climate talks during Advent) and her meditations from last year.
- **Christian Aid** offers an [Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy](#), with a focus on refugees, together with weekly Revised Common Lectionary based [reflections centred around reconciliation](#),
- **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)** offers 'A World in Waiting: Advent hope in an economic crisis'. Not new but relevant. Includes candle-lighting prayers and weekly reflections.
- **Creighton University** (a Jesuit foundation) has [daily Advent prayers](#) that touch on themes of peace and justice, as well as materials for each Sunday.
- Christine Sine's **Godspace** blog is always a source of worship and practical inspiration – and her [page of resources](#) for families celebrating Advent and Christmas is full of beautiful photographs, reflections and prayer ideas ... including a link to [a lovely Advent candle lighting liturgy](#). She also has [new resources on this year's theme](#) 'Let light emerge from darkness'
- **Embrace the Middle East** will send you a [daily Advent email](#) around the theme 'Following the path to peace on earth'

- **Ignatian Spirituality** offers a [host of Advent prayer resources](#) in the Ignatian tradition.
- The **Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)** has a new [Advent course called 'Prepare Ye the Way'](#). Participants are invited to “reflect on the transformational encounters experienced by those at Jesus’ birth, and think about this in the context of some of the issues we currently face as a society.”
- **'Our Common Home: Caring for God's Creation'** is a study course for Easter or Lent, put together by an ecumenical group in Birmingham. Another helpful resource for potential Eco Churches.
- **The Sanctuary's** [Advent and Christmas section](#) includes Advent meditations in the form of monologues by participants in the Nativity, written prayers, the Omega Advent course and a song.
- An [Advent prayer guide](#) called 'Hope of all the earth' includes daily meditations on different contexts.
- **Tearfund** will have an Advent “email” calendar. Sign up [here](#).
- **Unlock**, which works to help urban churches engage with people in their community, has a useful Advent course for young people – or not so young people. Called [God Finds Us](#), it has five sessions with readings, questions and activities that look at topics such as “The God of the 'Unimportant'”.
- **USPG's** Advent appeal focuses on mothers and babies: [it includes](#) a prayer meditation video and sermon materials.. You can also still find [2015's excellent prayer card with a candle lighting liturgy](#) , which focuses on prayer for refugees in Europe.
- The **World Council of Churches** has [two sets of worship material](#) on the theme of peace. Each contains worship outlines for the four Sundays of Advent, meditations, stories and songs on peace.

Other helpful lists are available from [The Text This Week](#),



This resource was prepared by Christian Concern for One World.

For over two decades, CCOW has been working with Christians who seek to discern what “doing justice,” “loving kindness,” & “walking humbly with God” mean for us in our globalised world. Our focus is on economic justice, international relations, and care for creation. For more reflections and resources for prayer and action, visit our website or contact us directly.