

QUIET WAITING

The Advent of Our God

by
Julie K. Ageson

It is Advent. The sun rises late and low in the southern sky, the days are short and cold, the dark night is long. All the world waits during this dormant season of winter. This season is an end we have come to know as necessary for a new beginning. We long for the promise of new life, for light in the darkness, for the source of our life, the Promised Christ.

Can we wait quietly, peacefully, for Christmas to come? It is so difficult for us to be silent, waiting, focused on the One we call Lord for we want too much and we want to do so much. The Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy is obscured by other trappings of the season and the promise of peace in our hearts is an elusive hope.

This Advent and Christmas, may our waiting and watching recall for us what is centered in life. May there be time for silence and time for reflection. And may this surprising God who comes to us in human form, who is there at our waking and there at our sleeping, make this Advent truly **THE ADVENT OF OUR GOD.**



The following Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany resources are intended for reflection. They may be used individually, as families, or as a congregation. While the Resource Center has dozens of programs, ideas and activities for these seasons of the church year, this collection is meant for quiet contemplation.

FOR READING and STUDY

INCARNATION: Contemporary Writers on the New Testament edited by Alfred Corn (B1495) Twenty-three essays by well-known contemporary writers on the books of the New Testament. *A book to be slowly savored with delight, both for the biblical insights and for the individual vision of the varied writers.*

A METAPHORICAL GOD by Gail Ramshaw (B1695) Using the alphabet as a way of exploring God, Ramshaw gives us extraordinary images for God. *"We are able actually to meet God, again and again, in the burning bush, in the wounds of Christ, at the table of the Lamb."*

THE IRRATIONAL SEASON by Madeleine LiEngle (B738) From the trilogy, *Crosswicks Journal*, this book explores LiEngle's life through the lens of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and the cycle of the church year.

TO DANCE WITH GOD by Gertrud Mueller Nelson (B537) Part two of this book focuses on the church year. The chapters on Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are rich with images and descriptions of God's presence in daily life.

A CUP OF CHRISTMAS TEA by Tom Hegg (B413) A delightful poem celebrating friendship.

THE TWENTY-FOUR DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS by Madeleine LiEngle (B476) A delightful story for families to help understand Advent as a time for waiting.

THE COMINGS OF GOD by Richard Simon Hanson (B835) Lovely meditations on Abraham, Moses, Ruth, David, Mary and others through whom God comes to us.

AWAITING THE CHILD: An Advent Journal by Isabel Anders (B1225) Written as the author awaited the birth of her first child, these meditations encourage the theme of waiting in Advent. *In this spiritually moving book, Anders lifts up the experiences we often view as common and shows us how to let what seems ordinary become a sacramental experience.*

THE MANGER IS EMPTY by Walter Wangerin (B783) *The stories are stunning. So subtly, magically vulnerable and complex.* Stories to reveal Christ in our midst.

CELEBRATE WHILE WE WAIT by the Schroeder Family (PR316) A collection of family devotional resources for Advent and Christmas.

FOR WORSHIP

An Advent Sourcebook (PR136) Collection of prayers, litanies, poems, readings.

An Advent Hymn Study (PR295) A study for Advent using hymns.

A Family Journey (PR332) Candlelight celebration for Advent and Christmas Eve.

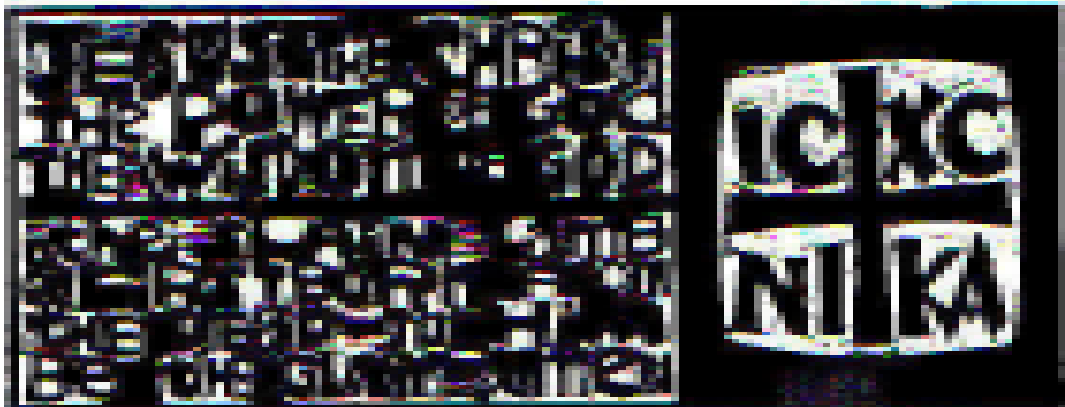
In Straw and Story (PR111) Collection of worship resources, music, traditions for families.

Psalms of Advent (PR113) Twelve Advent messages from the Psalms.

A Christmas Sourcebook (PR135) Collection of prayers, litanies, poems, readings.

Celebration Services for Christmas (PR329) Collection of worship services.

Creative Ideas for Epiphany (PR236) Ideas for exploring the meaning of Epiphany.



FOR LISTENING AND WATCHING

ïPreparing for Christmas I and IIï (VT205 and VT464) A series of four programs helping viewers prepare for Christís coming at Christmas.

ïMartin Lutherís Christmas Sermonï (VT1242) Roland Bainton narrates Lutherís Christmas sermon.

îThe End of Time, the Start of Timeî (C614) At the end of the church year, we are told the apocalyptic stories. These are followed by rebirth at Advent. Storyteller, Megan McKenna, brings this sequence to life by story, history, and sophisticated exegesis.

îThe People of Adventî (C623) Storyteller, Megan McKenna, brings to life the people of Advent: John the Baptist, Mary, us.

îBehold This Childî (VT465) Four part presentation featuring an introduction to the Christmas story focusing on the differences in the accounts of Matthew and Luke, the annunciation stories, and the incidents following Jesus' birth.

îPreparing for Christmas with Richard Rohrî (C573) Two talks that help us think about îthe adult Christ, the cosmic Christ,î the Lord who challenges us to conversion and new life.

îWhat Are We Waiting For?î and îHow Do We Wait.î

îAdvent: A Time to Hopeî (VT1099) Invites viewers to discover the ways they celebrate Advent in everyday life.

îThe Best Christmas Pageant Everî (VT1183) A touching, humorous story about îthe nastiest, dirtiest kids you could ever meet,î who decide that THIS year, THEY belong in the Christmas pageant.

îBirth of Jesusî (VT348) A visual journey to the sights and stories of Jesus' birth.

îThe Gospel of Lukeî (VT21 and VT22) An authentic and verbatim dramatization of Luke's gospel.

îSongs of Christmasî (VT466) Tells the stories behind well-known Christmas carols.

These resources and more are available for loan from:

THE RESOURCE CENTER

Eastern North Dakota Synod ĩ 1703 32nd Avenue South ĩ Fargo, ND 58103

Telephone 701-232-3381 or 877-895-4598 ĩ FAX 701-232-3180

e-mail julie_aageson@ecunet.org or julie@eandsynod.org