



BIG BOOK OF ADVENT

The Seminary's 2021 "Big Book of Advent Devotionals—Year 2" gives you a valuable resource for personal and corporate spiritual formation during the Advent season. Each section includes multiple biblical passages from the daily lectionary, reflections based on those passages, and accompanying prayers based on each reflection.

[DOWNLOAD THE BIG BOOK OF ADVENT—YEAR 2 \(WORD Doc\)](#)

RENAMING THE ADVENT CANDLES

In this liturgy, the Rev. Jeff Eddings '08 renames the traditional Advent candles of hope, peace, love, and joy to spaciousness, contemplation, commitment, and imagination. Consider using these weekly readings this year as you light the Advent candles in your church.

[DOWNLOAD THE LITURGY](#)

AWAITING HIS ADVENT ACTIVELY

In her blog post "Awaiting His Advent Actively," Dr. Edith Humphrey, William F. Orr Professor Emerita, writes "Advent, or the Fast of the Nativity, is a time of waiting: preparing for when we will joyfully celebrate, yet again, Christ's nativity (His first Advent!) and waiting with patience for when He will come again in glory at his second promised Advent. Consider this stirring and demanding passage from Colossians 3:4-11, prescribed for Divine Liturgy this week, that captures the kind of "active waiting" to which we are called."

[ACCESS THE BLOG](#)

ADVENT HYMN

The Rev. Dr. Graham D. S. Deans '06 has written a new Advent hymn to the tune of *Menuet Gothique*. Use this as a congregational hymn, sung by your church choir, or even special music.

[DOWNLOAD THE LYRICS](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE SHEET MUSIC](#)

We also encourage you to use these resources, previously included in our Advent Resource Kits.

THE BRIGHTEST STAR: CHILDREN'S SERMON

The Rev. Jeremy Collins '14 shares this children's sermon for use in your Christmas Eve or Christmas Day worship service.

[DOWNLOAD CHILDREN'S SERMON](#)

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT! A STUDY OF MICAH

Just what kind of savior is Jesus—the kind we want, or the kind we need? In this brief lesson from the prophet Micah, James A. Kelso Professor Emeritus of Hebrew and Old Testament the Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell helps us understand the kind of distance Jesus bridges in order to set us on the right path. Consider incorporating it into your celebration of communion during Advent.

[DOWNLOAD MICAH STUDY](#)

ADVENT MUSIC FOR GUITAR

The SYI Guitar Hymnal is available for a wide range of guitar players and musical environments. The SYI Guitar Hymnal coordinates with the 1990 *Presbyterian Hymnal*. This resource presents as many as five versions of 33 different Advent/Christmas hymns and facilitates guitar accompaniment of congregational hymns in neo-traditional worship, in addition to blended or contemporary settings. [Visit this music resource to see all that's available!](#) This free resource is a service of the Seminary's [Miller Summer Youth Institute](#).

[ACCESS ADVENT MUSIC FOR GUITAR](#)

"WHAT IS ADVENT?" VIDEO

Share this video with your youth group, Bible study, or congregation to help answer the question "What is Advent?"

A PICTORIAL NARRATIVE OF THE BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

This Advent slideshow contains many historic lantern slides of Christmas-related scenes from the Holy Land collected by former PTS professor of biblical archaeology Melvin Grove Kyle. Use this PowerPoint slideshow, which includes captions from the Bible, as a background for your Advent worship services, Christmas fellowship gatherings, or Sunday School classes. Pairing the show with the Borys Heade Wassail Quire Christmas carols provides a festively meaningful atmosphere at your Advent and Christmas services and celebrations.

DOWNLOAD THE POWERPOINT After clicking "Download the PowerPoint," be sure to "Save As" to enable editing and picture viewing.

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ABOUT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Rooted in the Reformed tradition, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is committed to the formation of students for theologically reflective ministry and to scholarship in service to the global Church of Jesus Christ.

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FACULTY

In addition to their on-campus duties, our faculty are experts in their fields and are available to preach and teach. Learn more about their **topics of research and writing** and invite them to present at your congregation or gathering.

EVENTS

The Seminary hosts a wide range of events—many of them free!—on topics of faith including church planting, mission, vocation, spiritual formation, pastoral care and counseling, archaeology, and many more. Visit our **calendar** often for a listing of upcoming events.

VISIT PTS

Interested in the Seminary? **Come visit us!**

STAY IN TOUCH WITH PTS

Sign-up to receive the Seminary's newsletters: Seminary News (monthly), Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry, Continuing Education, Faith Forming Families Network, Kelso Museum, Metro-Urban Institute, Miller Summer Youth Institute, and World Mission Initiative. Alums, there's also one for you!

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
616 North Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Phone: 412-362-5610



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