

## Advent 2024 Everyday Faith content outline

The **Everyday Faith app** will carry daily reflections (Monday to Saturday) throughout Advent (Monday 2 December to Christmas Eve). These will be followed by twelve days (daily, including Sundays) from Christmas Day to Sunday 5 January. And, of course, the Everyday Faith app will continue to offer content (Monday to Saturday) through 2025.

During Advent, there are four weekly themes. A summary of the week's content is shared below – and a fuller introduction to each week will be shared as a video from the Church of England's social media channels.

### First Week of Advent – Awaiting the dawn (The Patriarchs)

John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth

#### Week 1 Introduction:

Advent is a season of hope, for us and for the world. With the Old Testament prophets and writers of the psalms we will, this week, explore a little of what that hope looks like. Their words invite us to look to the horizon and see the dawning day, light kissing the land and warmth touching lives- the moment when (in the words of John the Baptist's father, Zechariah), *"In the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us"*.

| Day         | Reading          | Theme                       | Summary   |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Monday 2    | Zechariah 9.9,10 | Peace for the nations       | The dawning light, the coming King, promises peace to the nations, through humility and service.  |
| Tuesday 3   | Jeremiah 23.5,6  | Justice for the land        | The light of dawn touches the land as the sun rises, so God's life and love bring hope – justice and righteousness – to the earth.          |
| Wednesday 4 | Psalms 24        | Blessing for the humble     | A song for pilgrims, a song for those who look to the dawn, a song for those who wait for the King.   |
| Thursday 5  | Isaiah 9.2,6,7   | Light for those in darkness | Many people, in different ways, know what it is to walk and live in the shadows. God's light, God's hope, is for them especially.           |
| Friday 6    | Psalms 126       | Joy for those who weep      | A song of return, a song of transformation, as the light of God's dawn reaches the depth of sorrow and despair.                             |
| Saturday 7  | Romans 13.11-14  | The night is far gone       | St Paul reminds Christians that the night has gone. We already live with the light of Christ in our hearts and that light shapes our lives. |

### Second Week of Advent – Those who sit in darkness (The Prophets)

Kate Bruce, RAF Chaplain

#### Week 2 Introduction:

Advent is a season of waiting. The Advent calendar countdown to Christmas mirrors a deeper longing in the human heart. So many ache for the dawn to break in, for light to pierce darkness, for hope to be fulfilled, for peace to still the chaos. For those locked into gloom and misery, Advent invites hope. This is not denial of the present darkness, but a decision not to be limited by it. Advent is a season of dreaming in the night-time – of longing for and seeking after the light.

| Day          | Reading                 | Theme                      | Summary  |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Monday 9     | Psalms 107.1-3, 10-16   | God hears our cries        | Confronting fears of desolation and abandonment, remembering that God is always there.                     |
| Tuesday 10   | Isaiah 61.1-3,11        | Light to the world         | Contemplating how we bring light to situations of oppression – material, physical, emotional or spiritual. |
| Wednesday 11 | Isaiah 42.5-9           | For the good of the world  | Making connections between our faith with our life outside of church.                                      |
| Thursday 12  | Micah 4.1-5             | A reason for hope          | How do we maintain hope in difficult circumstances?  |
| Friday 13    | Ephesians 2.11-13,19,20 | Connecting with the lonely | Experiencing being part of God's household through relationship with others.                               |

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|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| Saturday 14 | Matthew 25.31-end | Advent and politics | Exploring the Gospel as motivation to the oppressed, and recognising the need to balance support and critique of those in political life. |
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## The Third Week of Advent – Preparing the way for God (John the Baptist)

**Jitesh Patel**, Assistant Director of St Mellitus, East Midlands

### Week 3 Introduction:

In this week's reflections we will be exploring the season of Advent, where we look to Jesus' coming, through the figure of John the Baptist. We will see the joy of knowing a God with us, who invites us to receive him into every part of our lives.

| Day          | Day               | Reading                     | Theme  |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Monday 16    | Luke 1:68-79      | The Father's Song           | God's delight as a Father over us as his children.                     |
| Tuesday 17   | Malachi 3:1-4     | Made Beautiful              | Jesus's work to change us to be more like him.                         |
| Wednesday 18 | Mark 1:1-8        | Preparing the Way for Jesus | How can we, like John the Baptist, help other people connect with God? |
| Thursday 19  | Isaiah 52:7-10    | Beautiful Feet              | Exploring how we are called to bear Jesus' good news to others.        |
| Friday 20    | Psalms 103:8-14   | Real Compassion             | Exploring how we can come to know God's compassion in our lives.       |
| Saturday 21  | Philippians 4:4-7 | Dealing with Anxiety        | Asking God to come into our anxieties.                                 |

## The Fourth Week of Advent – Looking for the light (Mary)

**Sammi Tooze**, Diocesan Discipleship Advisor for the Diocese of York

### Week 4 Introduction:

In these last few days of Advent, we turn – in the company of Mary – towards the moment when we welcome the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

| Day        | Day                 | Reading                    | Theme   |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Monday 23  | Luke 1.46-55        | My soul magnifies the Lord | The power of words and how God shows his power through his love of those at the margins of society. |
| Tuesday 24 | Revelation 22.12-17 | Bright morning star        | Cherishing the gift of the morning star, of each new day, and of Jesus being born among us.         |

From Christmas Day to Sunday 5 January, **Sammi Tooze** leads us in *Calm and Bright: Meditations for the Twelve Days of Christmas*, available as a booklet from Church House Publishing, by email and in the Everyday Faith app via [www.cofe.io/CalmAndBright](http://www.cofe.io/CalmAndBright).