Journeying the Way of Love Advent Calendar

I commend to you Journeying the Way of Love Advent Calendar (included on back page) which offers daily suggestions for engaging in the seven practices that encompass The Way of Love - an intentional commitment to following Jesus by turning, learning, praying, worshiping, blessing, going, and resting, and in so doing we will deepen our spiritual lives, growing closer to God and each other.

If we listen closely, there is a spirit calling us to come back to ourselves, back to our purpose, back to something more meaningful.

By reading the scriptures, taking time to study, listen, and absorb what they say, we are entering into the long, deep, stream of humankind’s experiences with God.

The daily practice of making time and space to speak with God, to listen to God, or to simply be with God, clears a pathway for God to enter our lives.

Just as God wants to enter into our lives and meet us where we are, so God desires for us to enter into God’s space, together, and be present there.

When we incorporate the practice of blessing others into our lives, we are putting our love into action by becoming the Good News for others.

The pursuit of Jesus can often mean moving out of

Mystics, Music, and Musings: Wisdom Learning in a Time of Pandemic and Beyond
Saturday, December 18, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

We enter the region of awe when we explore mysticism. During this time of prolonged COVID-19 virus and its variants, a time of grave concern, isolation, fear, anxiety, suffering, and death, what wisdom can we learn from mystics, music, liturgy, art, and poetry? It is our hope that you will experience a glimpse of the Holy who calls you forth in faith to believe that the pandemic is not the last word. God is.
our circles of comfort and going to other places, geographically, culturally, economically, spiritually.

The Way of Love recognizes that one way to love ourselves and to maintain ourselves as useful instruments of God is through the practice of rest.

Blessings in this Advent season.

Rick+

To download Journeying the Way of Love Advent calendar, visit https://episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/10/Advent-2021-Calendar.pdf.

For more information on the Journeying the Way of Love Advent curriculum, visit https://episcopalchurch.org/journeying-way-love.

Cantus Novus - Embracing the Light of Liberty
Friday, December 3, 8 p.m.

All of us, musicians and audiences alike, have suffered unimaginable losses since the beginning of 2020. We have just recently been able to hug loved ones, meet with friends, and make music together, but all with a measure of carefulness that is new to us. The liberation within our grasp is akin to escaping from an interminable darkness, and yet we know that many in our midst and around the world have not arrived at this happy juncture.

So in celebration and thanksgiving but aware of the challenges that still lie ahead, our theme for this season is Veritas, who, in Roman mythology is the goddess of Truth.

The Reflection will be led by Virginia Sheay with the assistance of James Wells who will speak on Mysterium Tremendum, Barbara Tortorello who will give a slide presentation on selected prophets from the stained glass windows of Jacob Landau, and selected poetry will be read by John Bartle and Mary Miller who will read some of her own poetry.

Masks are recommended for everyone and required for those who are not fully vaccinated. The Reflection will also be livestreamed for those unable to attend.

La Fiocco - In Sweet Rejoicing: Renaissance & Baroque Music for the Holiday Season
Sunday, December 19, 3 p.m.

La Fiocco is thrilled to announce a special holiday concert of music. Haunting songs and carols from the Renaissance and early Baroque era, Corelli’s Christmas Concerto, favorite arias from Handel’s Messiah, and more.

Embracing the Light of Liberty
The centerpiece of this concert will be Vivaldi’s Gloria with string orchestra.

Due to COVID restrictions, there will be limited seating, and proof of vaccination and masks are required.

Please call 215.968.3414 for availability. Tickets: $25 in advance, $30 at the door. Tickets may be purchased online, by mail, or at the door.

For more information on Cantus Novus, visit https://cantusnovus.org.

Tickets are no longer available as seating capacity has been reached. A link to the video of the concert will be posted on La Fiocco’s homepage from December 26-January 3.

For more information on La Fiocco, visit https://lafiocco.org.

For more Advent resources, visit https://trinitysolebury.org/advent.
ADVENT CALENDAR 2021

Sunday
28 Worship
29 Go
Go out of your way to have a conversation with someone you might not normally visit with today. Ask God to open your heart to hear this person as God does.

Monday
30 Learn
Read Hebrews 12:1-9. How do these verses from Hebrews inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes? Try reading several different translations of this passage. See how the language might change your reading of it.

Wednesday
1 Pray
Pray along with the Collect for Advent 1, found on page 311 of The Book of Common Prayer. We know that angels are God’s special messengers to us, and that Gabriel spent an interminable time with Mary, helping her to understand her part in God’s story. Who has shared an important lesson or insight with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.

Thursday
2 Bless
We know that angels are God’s special messengers to us, and that Gabriel spent an interminable time with Mary, helping her to understand her part in God’s story. Who has shared an important lesson or insight with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.

Friday
3 Turn
Read Isaiah 58:5. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently? How might this lesson change the way you celebrate or recognize this holy season?

Saturday
4 Rest
Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a drawer for an hour or two. Whatever happens in that time, you can handle it. Give this time to yourself and Jesus, to rest and recharge for the week ahead.

5 Worship
Advent 2
Read Luke 2:1-16. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?

6 Go
Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.

7 Learn
Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week. It can be someone you have known for a while who has not heard the faith part of your story.

8 Pray
Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 311 of The Book of Common Prayer. As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass. Ask God to bless them in their lives and work. See how this changes the way you go about your week.

9 Bless
Call or write a letter to a family member or friend whom you would like to have a closer relationship with. Make plans in the new year to keep in touch, either in person or over Zoom. Let them know how much you love and look forward to knowing them better.

10 Turn
Where did you struggle this week? Do you have any regrets or failures? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God’s help, to make those changes.

11 Rest
Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone, but you need to pause to listen to each other on the phone or over Zoom. Some things are too important to be shared as a text or an email.

12 Worship
Advent 3
Imagine the best you’d like to see at church — an all-star cast of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for these folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you the next month.

13 Go
Take a new or different route to work, or school, or out to run errands. See how the people you pass are different from the usual routine.

14 Learn
Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah’s speech ends, he promises God that if you lost the power to speak for nine months, you would be divinely inspired to speak. What would be your first words of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.

15 Pray
Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 312 in The Book of Common Prayer. How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.

16 Bless
Spend a significant amount of time discerning if there is a special gift or gift you can share with your church, your local ministry, or with your community. Ask God to inspire you and enable you to share this gift with others.

17 Turn
Turn away from all the things that are stressing you out. Turn your heart and mind to the gifts you can share with others.

18 Rest
Read 1 Peter 4:11. How does this reading comfort you in your life? Go to the park, take a hike, or just sit outside and let the air wash over you. Turn your attention to the stress and worry of the moment. Read Psalm 100 before bed and all day tomorrow.

19 Worship
Advent 4
Linger before leaving your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate the good work and name God’s presence in your community.

20 Go
Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate the good work and name God’s presence in your community.

21 Learn
Read Habakkuk 2:3-4. Does this reading remind you of Thomas the disciple? Why do you think the folks who organized the lectionary picked this reading from the New Testament (for the feast of Jesus’ birth)?

22 Pray
Pray along with the Collect for Advent 4, found on page 312 in The Book of Common Prayer. Pray for all who believe in the same things as you, and ask God to bless them today. Pray for all who believe in the same things as you, and ask God to bless them today.

23 Bless
Make sure to pick up an extra present or two — a nice candy sampler or a warm pair of socks or pajamas. In case you have extra friends or gifts to drop by, ask God to bless those who travel and those who may be able to come to your home. They will be extra glad to hear that during the winter months.

24 Turn
Christmas Eve
If you are gathering with family and friends this weekend, consider taking time during the meal to turn to the folks on your right, and then on your left, to thank them for their love in your life. See how this might spread some joy and comfort around the table — or maybe even some potentially prickly guests.

25 Rest
Christmas Day
The conventional wisdom is that new parents should rest when the baby is resting. Make sure you take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus — and marvel at the wonder of a fresh, new, shining, precious Start. Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.