

<http://godspace-msa.com/2010/11/17/advent-videos-the-entire-series/>

## Video One: Christ Is Coming Let Us

**Draw Near:** A five minute Advent meditation remembers that the Christ coming into our world is not just coming as a child in a stable but as the bringer of justice and freedom. The music features *Kyrie – I Call to You* from the CD, *Standing Still* by Jeff Johnson - [www.arkmusic.com](http://www.arkmusic.com).

## Video Two: The Coming of the Lord is

**Near:** A five minute Advent meditation featuring the music - *Gloria – Remember* from the CD *Standing Still* by Jeff Johnson - [www.arkmusic.com](http://www.arkmusic.com)

## Video Three: Jesus Christ Light of the

**World:** A five minute advent meditation to the music - *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* is from Jeff Johnson's Christmas CD - [www.arkmusic.com](http://www.arkmusic.com)

## Video Four: Awaiting the Christ Child:

A three minute Advent meditation that encourages us to await the coming of Christ with expectation and joyful anticipation. The music- *Christ Child Lullaby* played by Jeff Johnson

## Video Five: Advent II Homecoming:

A four minute meditation to the song "*Let Your Kingdom Come* from *Songs for Revolution of Hope* produced by Brian McLaren. The theme is the return of Christ & the coming of the Reign of God.

*Low resolution videos are free, higher resolution are for purchase.*



## Advent - Christmas Worship Resources

General Board of Discipleship—Methodist Church:  
<http://www.gbod.org/worship/church-civic-holidays/advent/resource/hanging-of-the-greens-service>

Interactive Installation ideas for Advent Prayer Stations—Still Waters: <http://theresaecho.com/2013/11/25/interactive-prayer-stations-for-installations-ordinations-advent/>

On Facebook: A Worship Installation Community

Visualizing Worship: Sparking conversations about worship and life—<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/visualizing-worship-sparking-conversations-about-worship-and-life/>

Kathy Escobar -Video meditation/reflection for Advent <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38RfCvrw61c> – reflecting on Thin places or link to <http://www.transformnetwork.org/video/refuge-advent-reflection>

The Adventures of Mary and Joseph: Paperless Christmas from the UK presents the Advent and Christmas story as a road trip, comprised of several different short videos in chronological order. <http://www.paperlesschristmas.org.uk/>

Advent in 2 minutes—video (you may want to omit the advertisement at the end) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S02KOlw7dIA>



From the Desk of Lorna MacQueen  
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Faith Formation for Discipleship

# TOWARD DARING DISCIPLESHIP

October 2014

## ADVENT PLANNING



"Image courtesy of hin255 / FreeDigitalPhotos.net".

## Resources for Advent And Christmas

# The Advent Conspiracy

<http://www.adventconspiracy.org/>

The Advent Conspiracy is an endeavor to reclaim Advent for Worship, Love, Sharing, Thanksgiving and Gratitude.

*The Advent Conspiracy is a movement designed to help us all slow down and experience a Christmas worth remembering. But doing this means doing things a little differently. A little creatively.*

*It all boils down to love. Love from a savior. Love to a neighbor in need. By spending just a little less on gifts we free up our resources to love as Jesus loves by giving to those who really need help. This is the conspiracy three churches began a few years ago, and has since grown to an international movement where thousands of churches have raised millions of dollars to love others in life-changing ways.*



The Website includes video, powerpoint and printed resources, most of which are free for download. There is also an option for paid subscription to other resources. The Conspiracy invites communities to come to Advent, not with a judgment about Christmas as our society celebrates it, but with a new heart to celebrate it more simply and more deeply.

I would suggest that a church that would use the resources would also adapt them for your context, including adaptation of the justice agencies that are suggested into those United Church Faith and Justice Partners with whom we already have significant relationships.

# Las Posadas

Las Posadas (the inns) is a Mexican traditional practice. On Dec. 16 a nightly journey begins to homes in the neighborhood who are asked to represent the inns from which Mary and Joseph were turned away. For nine consecutive nights the community processes to one of the homes/inns with candles and singing hymns which tell the story of the Christmas family. The hymns are sung at the door and the family of the "inn" sings a little song to refuse entrance to Mary and Joseph who are sent away. On the last night the procession is welcomed into the house/inn in which a Christmas crèche of some kind with a crib or a manger has been set up. Refreshments are shared.

A conversation around how to meaningfully adapt this ritual in your context might reap some creative ideas.

*Combining Las Posadas with the Advent Candle ritual to begin your Advent Worship Services brings the vividness of the story to the forefront of the Advent Season.*

Each week the couple might represent refugees from current conflict or oppression searching for safety, shelter and life.

Alternatively the focus might rest on the reason the family is turned away, portraying weekly our own rejection of the radical Reign of God which seeks entrance into our lives.

Either realities might be portrayed in a short drama, monologue from the innkeeper, or congregational response.



The concept of journey, refusal, waiting and hope is a significant one not only for this story but for our churches. Here is an opportunity to be creative with your context. A printed Advent Candle Liturgy might help the congregation to engage the story prayerfully.

# The 12 days of Christmas

*In 1979, a Canadian hymnologist, Hugh D. McKellar, published an article...claiming that "The Twelve Days of Christmas" lyrics were intended as a catechism song to help young Catholics learn their faith...McKellar subsequently admitted that the purported associations were his own invention.*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Twelve\\_Days\\_of\\_Christmas\\_\(song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Twelve_Days_of_Christmas_(song))

This 'theory' was, however, a creative way to incorporate a well-known piece of music into a Christmas celebration. Many of our Christian symbols were adopted by the church from a secular or non-Christian religious context. The use of scripture and other pieces of music might be incorporated with this interpretation (or an adapted one) in that good old tradition.

What follows is a simplification of this interpretation:

1. On the 1st day of Christmas my true love gave to me... A Partridge in a Pear Tree- **Jesus**.  
(Luke3:34)
2. On the 2nd day ...Two Turtle Doves - **Old and New Testaments**
3. On the 3rd day ...Three French Hens- **Faith, Hope, and Love**  
(1 Corinthians 13:13)
4. On the 4th day ... Four Calling Birds- **Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John**
5. On the 5th day ... Five Gold Rings- **The Torah**- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy
6. On the 6th day ...Six Geese A-laying - **The six days of creation** (Genesis 1).
7. On the 7th day .....Seven Swans A-swimming **Seven Spiritual Gifts**  
(Rom. 12:6-8 OR 1 Cor. 12:8-11)
8. On the 8th day ...Eight Maids A-milking **The eight Beatitudes** (Matthew 5:3-10)
9. On the 9th day...Nine Ladies Dancing **The nine Fruit of the Holy Spirit**  
(Galatians 5:22-23)
10. On the 10th day ...Ten Lords A-leaping **The ten commandments** (Exodus 20:1-17)
11. On the 11th ...Eleven Pipers Piping **The eleven Faithful Apostles** (Luke 6:14-16).
12. On the 12th day Twelve Drummers Drumming **The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed**

