

Resources for Advent and Christmas with Stewardship Themes

Advent Sunday – Material provided in *Weekly Worship* focuses on God’s vision for the world and how we address the cost of living crisis. This includes creative ideas for prayer on this theme.

https://churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/100538/27-november-1-of-advent.pdf.

Reverse Advent Calendar – The idea is to enable people to give (rather than receive) something each day during Advent, for example:

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/former-kirk-moderators-reverse-advent-calendar-encourages-acts-of-kindness/133764.htm>.

Many Trussell Trust foodbanks provide reverse advent calendar lists.

Advent Unwrapped – A series of blog posts around Advent themes from stewardship.org.uk.

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/topics/biblical-stewardship/christmas>.

Michael Mouse – A scripted nativity telling the story of a mouse watching visitors bring presents to the stable. This challenges everyone to think of what gifts we can offer to Jesus. This can be found on p102-110 of *Cloth for the Cradle* (Wild Goose Worship Group, 1997).

<https://www.ionabooks.com/product/cloth-for-the-cradle/>.

MacChristmas MacArchers – A nativity play set in a farming community which celebrates the gifts that each can offer to Jesus. This can be found on p3-12 of *Advent Adventures* (Susan Brown, Scottish Christian Press, 2003).

What-if-ity? – A nativity play from Christian Aid which asks the question “What if...?” and encourages a response through giving, action and prayer.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/christmas-2022-alternative-nativity.pdf>

Getting Behind the Glitz – An event looking at the influence on Christmas of money, family, tradition, decisions and spirituality. It follows a similar process to Share-Reflect-Act found in *A Narrative of Generosity*. It can be found on p18-21 of *Changing Stables* (ALTERnativity, 2004).

Go for a Green Christmas – A wealth of ideas for stewarding the earth in the build up to, and following, Christmas. This can be found on p73-75 of *Messy Christmas* (Lucy Moore and Jane Leadbetter, Bible Reading Fellowship, 2012).

<https://www.brfonline.org.uk/collections/messy-church/products/messy-christmas-3-complete-sessions-and-a-treasure-trove-of-craft-ideas-for-advent-christmas-and-epiphany>.

Have Yourself a Sustainable Christmas – Ideas to reduce waste and make good use of resources put together by Tearfund

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Have-yourself-a-sustainable-Christmas.pdf>.

A Holy Flitting – An intergenerational service outline for New Year’s Day which provokes thought on how we will use God’s resources in the year ahead. This can be found on p51-58 of Issue 45 of *Spill the Beans*.

<https://www.spillthebeans.org.uk/>.

Journeying with the Magi – A meditation for Epiphany inviting us to consider how we offer of our gifts, time and material possessions. It can be found on p207-208 of *Hay & Stardust* (Ruth Burgess, Wild Goose Publications, 2005). <https://www.ionabooks.com/product/hay-stardust/> (Downloadable version available)

The Gifts of the Magi – A reflection for Epiphany on how we use God’s gifts of money, self and healing. It can be found on p84-85 of *Scots Worship: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany* (David Ogston, Saint Andrew Press, 2014).

<https://standrewpress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780861538546/scots-worship>

Feast – A selection of worship resources, craft ideas and practical activities on the theme of abundance, scarcity and provision from Faith Action for Nature.

<https://faithactionfornature.org/2018/12/11/winter/>

Music:

- **CH4 291 – When out of poverty is born** – Set to the well-known tune Kingsfold, verse two of Kathy Galloway’s Advent hymn contains a challenge around how we use our possessions and wealth. A sing-along video is available from Christian Aid Scotland:
<https://christianaid.resourcespace.com/pages/view.php?ref=3885&k=a0035be664>.
- **CH4 305 – In the bleak midwinter** – The final verse of Christina Rossetti’s hymn reminds us to give our hearts to God.
- **Busy Christmas** – This lively song from Fischy Music reflects on how we use our time amidst the busyness of the Christmas season. <https://www.fischy.com/fischy-music-online/songs/busy-christmas-with-re-collective-worship-resources/>
- **Jesus is the heart of Christmas** – Sung to the tune Westminster Abbey (Christ is made the sure foundation), this hymn considers how we use our resources. It can be found at number 207 in *Singing the Faith*.