

PRAYING FOR



by R. Anderson Campbell & Steve Sherwood
with Paula J. Hampton

Advent 2017



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Praying For Justice: A Lectionary of Christian Concern

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Advent 2017

Advent is a season of waiting. It captures the restless anxiety felt by the people of Israel as they looked for the promised messiah to come and deliver them from the hands of their oppressors. It is a season marked by darkness and a longing for light. As 2017 draws to a close it is difficult to ignore that this has been a year punctuated by darkness. We, too, long for light.

But Advent is also a season of hope. For Christians, Advent culminates in the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, Light in the darkness, Deliverer of the oppressed. It is the hope of this Light shining into our present darkness that moves us forward into this Advent. We are waiting for the light.

This free Advent breviary is an excerpt from *Praying for Justice* (Barclay Press, 2017). *Praying for Justice* is a four-year lectionary of verses that address God's call for us to turn our attention always to the poor, the oppressed, and the marginalized. It is an invitation to entreat God daily to address the pain and brokenness that is all around us. But it is also an invitation to hope. We are witnesses to the in-breaking of the kingdom of God through the incarnation of Jesus Christ. We have seen the Deliverer and we know the Good News.

As we move toward Christmas this year, we hope that these Advent selections from *Praying for Justice* will help you navigate the darkness as we wait, wait for the Light. If you find this resource useful, please pass it along to others. It is our gift to you and is meant to be shared. You might also consider purchasing the full *Praying for Justice* lectionary through Barclay Press or wherever books are sold. It contains more than 200 weeks of daily readings from over 1400 biblical passages about justice.

—Steve Sherwood, R. Anderson Campbell, and Paula Hampton

December 3-9, 2017

Whenever we reduce the poor from people with names to abstractions, we add to their poverty and impoverish ourselves. Our point of departure for a Christian understanding of poverty is to remember that the poor are people with names, people to whom God has given gifts, and people with whom and among whom God has been working before we even arrived.

Bryant L. Myers
Walking with the Poor (106)

Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday in Advent

I wait for your salvation, Lord, and I follow your commands.

Psalm 119:166 (NIV)

Monday, December 4

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. *Isaiah 51:1 (NASB)*

Tuesday, December 5

If any cannot afford the equivalent, they shall be brought before the priest and the priest shall assess them; the priest shall assess them according to what each one making a vow can afford.

Leviticus 27:8 (NRSV)

Wednesday, December 6

Though they plot evil against you and devise wicked schemes, they cannot succeed. *Psalm 21:11 (NIV)*

Thursday, December 7

I love you, Lord, my strength. *Psalm 18:1 (NIV)*

Friday, December 8

With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes. *Psalm 108:13 (NRSV)*

Saturday, December 9

Better to be poor and walk in integrity than to be crooked in one's ways even though rich. *Proverbs 28:6 (NRSV)*

December 10-16, 2017

There is always reason to hope, even when our eyes are filled with tears.

Henri Nouwen
;Gracias! (179)

Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday in Advent

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. *Psalm 130:5 (NIV)*

Monday, December 11

Do all these evildoers know nothing? They devour my people as though eating bread; they never call on the Lord. But there they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous. *Psalm 14:4-5 (NIV)*

Tuesday, December 12

Lord, you are the God who saves me; day and night I cry out to you. *Psalm 88:1 (NIV)*

Wednesday, December 13

The way of the Lord is a stronghold for the upright, but destruction for evildoers. *Proverbs 10:29 (NRSV)*

Thursday, December 14

Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.
2 Corinthians 8:1-2 (NASB)

Friday, December 15

With long life I will satisfy [them] and show [them] my salvation.
Psalm 91:16 (NIV)

Saturday, December 16

Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the Lord delivers them in times of trouble. *Psalm 41:1 (NIV)*

December 17-23, 2017

It cannot be denied that too often the weight of the Christian movement has been on the side of the strong and the powerful and against the weak and oppressed—this, despite the gospel.

Howard Thurman
Jesus and the Disinherited (20)

Sunday, December 17 - Third Sunday in Advent

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

Psalm 33:20 (NIV)

Monday, December 18

I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? *Luke 18:8 (NRSV)*

Tuesday, December 19

How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? *Psalm 82:2 (NIV)*

Wednesday, December 20

From heaven the Lord looked at the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free those who were doomed to die.

Psalm 102:19b-20 (NRSV)

Thursday, December 21

My tongue will proclaim your righteousness, your praises all day long. *Psalm 35:28 (NIV)*

Friday, December 22

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2 (NRSV)*

Saturday, December 23

All day long the wicked covet, but the righteous give and do not hold back. *Proverbs 21:26 (NRSV)*

December 24-30, 2017

In coming vulnerably into creation God is not giving up the characteristics of divinity, but most fully manifesting them.

William C. Placher

Narratives of a Vulnerable God (15)

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve, Fourth Sunday in Advent

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.
Psalm 40:1 (NIV)

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

“They shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”
Matthew 1:23b (NRSV)

Tuesday, December 26

“There is no peace for the wicked,” says the Lord.
Isaiah 48:22 (NASB)

Wednesday, December 27

The wicked earn no real gain, but those who sow righteousness get a true reward.
Proverbs 11:18 (NRSV)

Thursday, December 28

You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.
Psalm 45:7 (NIV)

Friday, December 29

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.
Psalm 13:5 (NIV)

Saturday, December 30

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13 (NIV)

