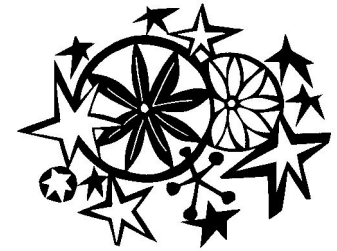




# Advent and Christmas 2017



	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>3 <i>First Sunday in Advent</i> Put phone down. Back away and stay away. All day. REALLY.</p>	<p>4 Pray for someone on the other side of the political divide from you. Try to mean it.</p>	<p>5 Take a beloved's face in your hands and turn it toward you.</p>	<p>6 In honor of Mary and Joseph, take a minute to pray for some parents you know who are having a tough time.</p>	<p>7 Make a blanket fort. Go inside in the quiet and hear what God has to say.</p>	<p>8 Write down three things that still give you hope, even after all you've been through.</p>	<p>9 Look for some beauty out of place in your winter landscape: a flower, sign or face uncovered. Take it as Mary speaking to you.</p>
<p>10 <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> Make like a thief in reverse: sneak a little delight—cookie, gum from the gas station—into someone's purse or pocket, secretly.</p>	<p>11 Read the news. Feel your despair fully, weeping if necessary. Your sorrow is your longing for good, inside out.</p>	<p>12 Go through your house and open all the doors and windows for a few minutes. Invite God inside.</p>	<p>13 Make a holy Christmas list. Address it, then mail it, to God.</p>	<p>14 Sometimes it's ok to veg instead of being alert. There's more than one way to watch. Get together with someone you like and watch a Christmas movie tonight.</p>	<p>15 Eat a perfect clementine. Some fruit in your life is ready to pluck. What is it? Ponder, then pick.</p>	<p>16 Do an act of praise that the people who know you know you wouldn't expect. Dance crazily, sing lustily, study earnestly, believe unquestioningly—just for a minute.</p>
<p>17 Find alone space. Make fists by your side, raise your head and say NONONO! Until empty. Then say YES. What is your no for? What is your yes for?</p>	<p>18 Light a candle and leave it burning in a window all night (maybe an LED). Pray that it might guide someone home.</p>	<p>19 Go gaze at the sky tonight. Draw new constellations with your finger. What do they tell you?</p>	<p>20 Make peace on earth begin with you. Sit somewhere quiet. Listen to nothing but your own breathing for five minutes.</p>	<p>21 Write down the cast of characters in your head: the hero, the villain. Let God be your playwright (in the kindest voice)</p>	<p>22 Set your alarm for a random time in the middle of the night (don't look). When it goes off, go look out your window at Creation for a few minutes.</p>	<p>23 Ask for, and receive, a heart to heart hug from at least 3 people. Hold for six seconds or more.</p>
<p>24 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Spend time with a creche, looking at each character, wondering about their fears, motivations and hopes. Go to church and pray for them.</p>	<p>25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Eat until bursting. Imagine tummy pains as labor pains. What is God birthing through you?</p>	<p>26 Baby is here! Be the baby. Swaddle, nap, cry if you need attention.</p>	<p>27 Be the baby! Blow raspberries at your enemies. Then coo at them.</p>	<p>28 Be the baby! Drink warm milk. Take it slow, and quiet.</p>	<p>29 Be your own parent: give yourself one thing you have always needed, since childhood. Foster your own well-being.</p>	<p>30 Take a magnifying glass or binoculars on a walk. What have you been missing all this time?</p>
<p>31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> Write a list of resolutions Creation would make if it could hold a pen.</p>	<p>1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> Pick one of yesterday's resolutions. Imagine one small step toward its fulfillment. Take it.</p>	<p>2 Wake up early and watch the sunrise. Feel the turning of the world. The Light is only getting stronger, however it may seem.</p>	<p>3 Things change if we change them. Write a letter to someone you need to reconnect with.</p>	<p>4 Things change if we change them. Write or call your members of Congress about an issue dear to you.</p>	<p>5 Make a list of all the Good News you perceive. Put it on the fridge. Leave a blank space for God to write the next entry.</p>	<p>6 <b>EPIPHANY</b> Do a yoga inversion or headstand. Have an epiphany. Or more than one. Write them down.</p>