

ADVENT DAILY READING SCHEME 2023 (Sun 3rd - Sat 30th Dec)

Book: Advent for everyone: Matthew (Tom Wright, 2016, SPCK)

The readings this year follow a book by Tom Wright based on four themes around time: a time to watch, repent, heal and love. Each reading encourages us to understand Advent within the wider context of God's love for us—revealed in Jesus Christ who reconciles us to God through the cross, bringing us healing and restoration. The readings remind us to celebrate Jesus' first coming and to look forward in hope to Christ's second coming.

If you'd like some accompanying devotional notes, just google the book title above - it is in paperback and ebook. Otherwise, follow the readings below allowing the Spirit to guide your thoughts around theme and questions. As always, do post some thoughts online as you go so we can reflect together as a community => <https://warwickbaptists.org.uk/advent>

Week 1: A time to watch

	Passage	Questions, if helpful
Advent Sun 3	24:36-44 - The unexpected visit	How do you stand ready?
Mon 4	13:24-35 - The parable of the weeds	How do you understand God's silence? How does Jesus' insistence on patience here challenge you?
Tue 5	24:1-24 - Birth pangs	Why does Jesus use the image of birth pangs to describe God's future? What does Matthew see as the elements of this future?
Wed 6	24:29-34 - Coming of the Son of Man	What do you understand by the phrase 'the coming of the son of man'? What demonstrates that Jesus has been vindicated by God?
Thu 7	24:45-51 - The wise and wicked slaves	How do you try to be wise in the biblical sense?
Fri 8	25:1-13 - The wise and foolish girls	What, in practice, might being ready for Jesus involve in your life? And in the life of your church?
Sat 9	26:36-46 - Gethsemane	Does this passage shed light on how you can face the darkness and horror of life? Or on how you can help others to do the same?

Week 2: A time to repent

	Passage	Question, if helpful
Advent Sun 10	3:1-10 - The words of John the Baptist	What was the situation of the Jewish people at the coming of John the Baptist? How did John say they were to get ready for Jesus?
Mon 11	3:11-17 - Jesus' baptism	What does Jesus' baptism tell you about who he is? How does it speak to you?
Tue 12	4:12-17 - Announcing the Kingdom	What do you understand by God's kingdom? What does the call to repentance say to you personally?
Wed 13	11:16-24 - Jesus condemns the cities	What excuses do people use today to avoid the issue of the kingdom? How can you help them to see that they need to repent and change direction?
Thu 14	15:10-20 - The parable of clean and unclean	What are you doing about your own impurity? How are you going to change?
Fri 15	22:1-14 - The parable of the wedding feast	What does God's tough love mean for you? And for the people around you?
Sat 16	26:69-75 - Peter's denial	What are the ways in which you have denied Jesus? How can you put things right?

Week 3: A time to heal

	Passage	Question, if helpful
Advent Sun 17	11:1-11 - Jesus & John the Baptist	How can you show God's mercy? What can the church do to show mercy to the world?
Mon 18	8:14-22 - On Following Jesus	What demands does Jesus make on his followers? What is the link between Jesus' authority and his healing?
Tue 19	9:1-8 - The healing of the paralytic	What does this passage teach about authority? How and in what way is Jesus victorious over the forces of evil?
Wed 20	9:18-26 - Raising of the little girl	What is the context of Jesus' mission to cleanse us from pollution? How does it speak to you?
Thu 21	12:15-21 - The servant	What are the characteristics of the Servant in Isaiah? How does the story shed light on what Jesus came to do?
Fri 22	18:21-35 - The challenge of forgiveness	How can you becoming more forgiving? Why is the phrase 'forgive and forget' misleading?
Sat 23	27:27-38 - Jesus mocked and crucified	How do you respond to the cross? How does it touch your life?

Week 4: A time to love

	Passage	Question, if helpful
Advent Sun 24	1:18-25 - The birth of Jesus	What do you believe about Jesus' conception and why? How does this passage help you?
Mon 25	5:38-48 - Loving your enemies	What is the nature of the justice Jesus offers? How does his teaching on reflecting the generous God and defusing violence speak to you?
Tue 26	6:16-24 - On fasting & lasting treasure	What are your real priorities? When you look back at your life in two, five, ten, fifteen years' time, will you be glad you put first things first?
Wed 27	10:32-42 - Jesus causes division	How can you put Jesus first in your life? What practical changes do you need to make?
Thu 28	22:34-40 - The great commandment	How does Jesus fulfil the two great commandments? Does it help you to see the commandments as invitations and promises?
Fri 29	26:1-13 - Prep for Jesus' death	How do you react to the story of Jesus' death? Who do you identify with and why?
Sat 30	28:16-20 - The great commission	What is your understanding of the claim that Jesus is already ruling the world? How do you react to the daily challenge to bring about God's kingdom?