Awaiting the Already

2020 Advent Worship Series

Based on the book

***Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey Through the Gospels***

by Magrey R. deVega

Produced by

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and

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**FOREWORD**

Advent is a lot like waiting for pictures to develop. Of all the seasons in the Christian year, it best captures the dynamic tension between the past and the future, in a way that fills us with hopeful anticipation in the present. When we journey to Bethlehem, it’s not that we think Jesus has not been born, and it’s not just that we believe Jesus will come again. It is about opening a freshly developed set of photographs, and allowing the past and the future to amaze us again in the present, as if the arrival of Jesus were happening for the very first time. Advent is not a time of pretending that Jesus has never been born; it is a time of preparing for what that birth might mean for us today.

Over the course of this series, we will traverse familiar territory, hearing the stories we have heard countless times over the years. The four Gospel writers, like photographers, will each assume a different angle on the action, panning, zooming and selectively choosing which parts of the birth narrative best convey their message. Altogether, these stories form one of the essential narratives of our faith: the anticipation and arrival of the Word Made Flesh. That “thrill of hope” can only come from waiting. So, welcome to Advent. Let’s await the already together.

(*Awaiting the Already,* pp. 10-12)

This series is based on Magrey R. deVega’s book: *Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey Through the Gospels.*

**Weekly themes for the series are as follows:**

Week One (November 29, 2020): **Mark: Slow Down, Pay Attention**

Week Two (December 6, 2020): **Matthew: The World as It Is**

Week Three (December 13, 2020): **Luke: The Ultimate Playlist**

Week Four (December 20, 2020): **John: The Light in the Darkness**

Christmas Eve (December 24, 2020): **Preparing for Christ**

Week Five (December 27, 2020): **Titus: Paul’s Christmas Letter**

**Services contain:**

* Song Options
* Calls to Worship/Scripture/Responsive Readings
* Advent Candle Readings
* Dramas/Children’s Moments
* Sample Sermons

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. It is recommended that the headings of each section of the service be included in the bulletin.

**APPRECIATION**

In producing this series, the Corps and Community Mission Department expresses its indebtedness to Captains Michael and Kristina Sjögren, Norridge (Citadel), Illinois, Corps, and Lt. Colonel Paul D. Smith, Territorial Headquarters, for their creation of the sermons. Special thanks to Peggy Thomas and Martyn Thomas (Music and Creative Arts Ministries), and Mark Bender (Corps and Community Mission) for their creativity, editing, and hard work. Translation into Spanish has been expertly provided through Alfredo Martinez (Intercultural Ministries).

deVega, Magrey R. *Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey Through the Gospels.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2015.

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2020 Advent Worship Series

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* Worship Service Outline
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| --- |
| Awaiting the Already  2020 Advent Worship Series  **EXPLANATORY NOTES** |

**WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINES**

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. To better accommodate changes, these worship service outlines are provided on the Music and Creative Arts website: [www.samusiccentral.org](http://www.samusiccentral.org) under resources.

If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed.

**MUSIC**

Music is an essential component of any worship service. It is a signal to unite and begin. It establishes the setting for praise and meditation. It adds variety, vitality and focus to worship. It can also be a means of learning and retaining spiritual truth, as well as expressing and sharing our faith.

These worship outlines are designed with the smallest to the largest congregation in mind, allowing for live (piano, ensemble, band, etc.) and recorded (compact discs) accompaniment.

All CD accompaniment songs/choruses have been chosen from the “Hymn Tune Accompaniment (HT)” and “Hallelujah Choruses (HC)” accompaniment compact discs. Very often an optional song or chorus is given which would fit at that point in the service in place of the original choice. You may wish to sing several of these songs as an additional worship time.

The information for each service component is listed in a grid format as in the following example.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HC#179 – Come to Jesus** | HC-179 | HCD16-T19 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#917 – Christ for the world, we sing** | TB-198 – Moscow | HTD2-T2 (4 vs.) |

Accompaniment abbreviations:

**SB** Salvation Army Song Book – words

**TB** Salvation Army Tune Book – tunes

**CF** Carolers Favorites

**HC** Hallelujah Choruses

**HTD2-T2** Hymn Tune Accompaniment Disc #2, Track #2

**HC-179** Hallelujah Choruses, Song #179

**HCD3-T13** Hallelujah Choruses, Disc #3, Track #13

Careful attention is needed when singing songs in a medley. When planning and selecting songs it is important to understand the difference between songs about God (a horizontal perspective) and songs sung to God (a vertical perspective). There is a generally held principle that these perspectives should not shift back and forth. For instance, if you were to sing “O Worship the King” (horizontal song) and “Shout to the Lord” (vertical song) consecutively, it is more conducive to worship to sing “O Worship the King” first and then “Shout to the Lord”, rather than the reverse. Once a vertical song is sung, it needs some type of resolution, whether it be a prayer or another vertical song. Worship “moments” can lose their impact if care is not taken in this area. Also, try to avoid mixing songs with radically different tempos or styles.

Vocal benediction options have been included for each service which can be an effective way to end each service.

**CALLS TO WORSHIP/RESPONSIVE READINGS**

Services usually begin with a Call to Worship which introduces the theme of the service.

A responsive reading has been included in each service. This responsive reading is often a combination of scripture and material from the book, *Awaiting the Already.*

Feel free to edit these as needed.

**DRAMAS and CHILDREN’S MOMENTS**

Drama sketches and Children’s Moments have been included in the series to add variety and depth to worship. The experience of *seeing* the Word portrayed, in addition to *hearing* the Word proclaimed, can provide worshipers with increased understanding and perspective. Focusing a special moment in the service for children brings all ages into worship with new perspectives (as well as some laughter!).

While it is not always necessary to memorize a script, memorization enhances any dramatic presentation when time and proficiency permit. Props are kept to a minimum. It is important to take time to read through the script before using this series to know what preparations will be needed.

**SOURCE MATERIAL FOR SERMONS**

Source material for the sermons are provided as a guide in preparation for a total worship experience. *Each sermon included should be viewed as a catalyst for preaching,* ***not a verbatim reading****.* These will be most effective if they are adapted, using personalized illustrations that relate to your specific congregation. Original illustrations have been left in but should only be used as a guideline.

**SUPPORT RESOURCES USED IN THIS SERIES**

The following support resources may be purchased through Trade Central: <http://satradecentral.org/>

Keyboard/Instrumental Accompaniment

The Salvation Army Song Book (2015) – vocal

The Salvation Army Tune Books (2015) – piano/band

Carolers Favorites – vocal/piano/band

Hallelujah Choruses Songbooks 1-26 (#1-280)

Hallelujah Choruses Instrumental Series 1-26 or

Hallelujah Choruses Piano/Rhythm Book (#1-280)

CD Accompaniment

*Hymn Tune Accompaniments* compact discs (12 total)

*Hallelujah Choruses* accompaniment compact discs 1-26

# Bibliography

deVega, Magrey R. *Awaiting the Already.*  Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2015

*Maranatha! The NIV Worship Bible.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

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