

# *Advent 2015*

We are entering this holy season of Advent to consider how God came to earth through Jesus to love and save the world. How might God's incarnate love help us, as God's people, to love the material world around us even better? Using the Advent hymn "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" as well as suggested actions, prayers, and reflections, let us communicate God's saving love through Jesus Christ to all the world.



Sunday

29

Sing verse one: "Comfort, comfort, now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God. "Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them! Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."

6

### 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sing verse two: For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Monday

30

Read about international peacemakers with the PC(USA), who offer comfort in God's creation where it is drastically impacted by human violence and warfare: [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/meet-international-peacemakers/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/meet-international-peacemakers/).

7

Pray for the changing landscapes of climate change: places newly becoming deserts, places newly becoming flooded, places experiencing natural disasters.

Tuesday

1

### World AIDS Day

Wear red today. Issues of human suffering are eco-justice concerns, and issues of environmental care are part of social justice. [www.worldaidsday.org/](http://www.worldaidsday.org/)

8

Send a word of love and encouragement to someone you consider to be heralding a prophetic call for change.

Wednesday

2

Donate a diversity of culturally-appropriate and/or local, healthy foods to food pantries, so that immigrants, refugees, and all who are hungry might find comfort in familiar, good foods.

9

Decide what you might change in your lifestyle, as a form of repentance. What might you turn away from—or what might you turn towards—to help bring God's way of comfort, justice, and love?

Thursday

3

Pray, individually or with others, for effective climate action, in solidarity with the United Nations COP 21 climate negotiations, as the international ecumenical community prays together at Notre Dame in Paris this evening.

10

### Human Rights Day

Contact decision makers on an issue you feel called to respond to: [capwiz.com/pcusa](http://capwiz.com/pcusa).

Friday

4

Write your legislators about the Green Climate Fund so that vulnerable communities, most heavily impacted by climate change, can have access to funds to mitigate and adapt. Visit Creation Justice's ask page here: [bit.ly/1JpTFRu](http://bit.ly/1JpTFRu).

11

Keep Christmas shopping simple and significant—perhaps giving a gift certificate for quality time spent together or a donation in that person's honor to a worthwhile organization.

Saturday

5

Volunteer with a local ministry that offers services for refugees or immigrants as they flee affects of warfare, climate change, and other disruptive events.

12

Read about partners around the world in their prophetic work and consider joining a monthly learning table on food and land, extractives (mining) and water, or trade reform: [www.pcusa.org/joininghands](http://www.pcusa.org/joininghands).



Sunday

13

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

Sing verse three: Straight shall be what long was crooked; and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

20

**4th Sunday of Advent**

Sing the whole hymn, using it as a meditation for this last Sunday of Advent.

Monday

14

Discover good ministry happening in a variety of PC(USA) Earth Care Congregations around the country at: [www.pcusa.org/blogs/eco-journey/2015/1/23/earth-care-church-stories/](http://www.pcusa.org/blogs/eco-journey/2015/1/23/earth-care-church-stories/).

21

Use poetry, journaling or art materials, capture how you see signs of how creation itself praises God and how we might learn from it.

Tuesday

15

Explore reflection-action trips offered at [www.pcusa.org/trips](http://www.pcusa.org/trips), to visit some of the places abroad where people are working for justice.

22

Consider in the New Year starting a green team, an eco-justice book group, or a simple living study.

Wednesday

16

Reflect on how humility is a value—not often touted in our culture—that may help us think about our rightful role in God's creation.

23

Write on a notecard one of your favorite scriptures on God's creation and keep it with you today.

Thursday

17

Sign up to receive the PHP Post, a quarterly hunger justice journal, to continue to receive stories of people working for God's glory and to heal hurting places. Email [php@pcusa.org](mailto:php@pcusa.org).

24

**Christmas Eve**

Read Psalm 96, meditating especially on: "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD..."

Friday

18

Look, touch, or listen for signs of God's glory in nature today: look up and down and all around you, listen for things that might normally go unnoticed, use your senses to engage the natural world.

25

**Christmas Day**

Praise God who creates, redeems and sustains all of creation, finding ways to honor Christ's birth through your continued interaction with God's creation in this season and throughout the year.

Saturday

19

Plan ahead for holiday meals to incorporate many local, sustainable foods in order to connect us to the earth, people who work in food systems, and all creatures in this celebratory time. Visit [www.pcusa.org/justliving](http://www.pcusa.org/justliving) for more information.



*This calendar is provided  
courtesy of the Environmental  
Ministries office of the  
Presbyterian Hunger Program.*



## **FURTHER RESOURCES**

PHP Post Advent 2015 will help you continue this season of reflection and action. Download at [www.pcusa.org/phppost](http://www.pcusa.org/phppost).  
Presbyterian Hunger Program overall web page is at [www.pcusa.org/hunger](http://www.pcusa.org/hunger).

PCUSA Environmental Ministries can be found online at [www.presbyterianmission.org/environment](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/environment).

Earth Care Congregations application and Greening Congregations guide available at [www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations](http://www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations).

Applications accepted annually Jan 1-Feb 15.

Simple living resources are available at [www.pcusa.org/enough](http://www.pcusa.org/enough).

Educational resources for food justice, simple living, environmental care, and more are available at [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/hunger/hunger-facts-and-materials/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/hunger/hunger-facts-and-materials/)

Give to Presbyterian Hunger Program, which supports Environmental Ministries, at: [www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/H99999/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/H99999/)

Presbyterians for Earth Care also publishes devotional Advent materials related to caring for God's creation at: [www.presbyearthcare.org/resources-docs.html](http://www.presbyearthcare.org/resources-docs.html).