

Advent 2014

As we await the celebration of Christ's birth this Advent Season, we give thanks that God sent Jesus Christ for the good of all the world. This daily calendar invites you to take a few moments each day for a simple action, practical change or reflection. You are invited to sing through the hymn *It Came upon a Midnight Clear*, to read, reflect, act, and connect with God's good world. Peace be with you this Advent!



Sunday

30

First Sunday of Advent, Nov 30

Sing verse One: It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven's all gracious King": The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

7

Second Sunday of Advent,

Sing verse two: Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world: Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing, And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

Monday

1

How can you spread peace on the earth (for all the earth) this Advent? Set an intention for your Advent season. (Share if desired on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pcusa.environment)

8

Send a card of thanks and peaceful wishes to a person or organization you admire who works to care for the earth.

Tuesday

2

Set aside time in quiet, and use your senses to enjoy creation. Praise God for this gift!

9

Read more about the United Nations' Conference on the Parties happening in Lima right now: www.cop20.pe/en

Wednesday

3

Read the daily lectionary in Advent and see where God might be encouraging care for the earth: www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/2014/12/3

10

Turn your thermostat down two degrees and weatherstrip your home as you're able.

Thursday

4

Pray for, and follow along with, the [PC\(U.S.A.\)study/action](http://PC(U.S.A.)study/action) trip to Lima Peru that starts tomorrow (focused on climate change and other social-environmental concerns in Peru). www.pcusa.org/blogs/eco-journey

11

Decorate your home or church with local, gleaned/ scavenged greenery.

Friday

5

Plan your Christmas gift-giving to reflect your values. Where might you be able to share homemade, local, fair-trade, or alternative gifts with your loved ones? www.pcusa.org/globalmarketplace

12

Learn about environmental justice concerns in your area (<http://scorecard.goodguide.com/community/ej-index.tcl>) and how you can connect to others (www.ejrc.cau.edu/Welcome.html)

Saturday

6

Ask for faithful action on climate change, so angels might indeed sing about a peace-filled creation! <http://bit.ly/10lo0q0>

13

Notice and appreciate birds today and any "peacefully winged" creature that passes by.



Sunday

14

Third Sunday of Advent,
Sing verse three: And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low, Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow, Look now! For glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing: O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

21

Fourth Sunday of Advent,
Sing verse four: For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold, When with the evercircling years Comes round the age of gold; When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling, And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

Monday

15

Remind yourself of your Advent intention. Be gracious with yourself. Recommit if desired or needed.

21

Discern if you want to carry your Advent intention into the Christmas season or New Year. More ideas for the 12 Days of Christmas are available at www.pcusa.org/phppost.

Tuesday

16

What ways can your church help creation to rest from life's crushing load? Ask if others might join you in plans to reduce the church's energy demands in 2015. See EPA EnergyStar for Congregations for ideas. www.energystar.gov

23

Look for, and share, hopeful stories of positive change.

Wednesday

17

Offer financial support to those working on social and environmental justice, peacemaking, disaster relief and community empowerment. www.presbyterianmission.org/hunger/give

24

Christmas Eve
As you see or light candles this evening, say prayers of intercession for the weary parts of God's creation, that they might find hope and peace.

Thursday

18

Read a diverse series on climate change at www.justiceunbound.org/journal/current-issue/apocalypse-how-week-1

25

Christmas
Christ is born! Celebrate and share this good news, with reflection and continued action, for the salvation of all God's Creation!

Friday

19

Be mindful of the water you use today; conserve as much as possible, and give thanks for the gift of it.

Saturday

20

Read about Presbyterian congregations caring for the earth, at www.pcusa.org/blogs/eco-journey/topic/church-earth-care-stories



For even further learning and action:

- PC(U.S.A.) Environmental Ministries: www.pcusa.org/environment
- Plan to attend the September 2015 Presbyterians for Earth Care conference at: www.presbyearthcare.org
- Sign up for the Eco-Notes e-newsletter: www.pcusa.org/hunger/subscribe
- Find more ideas in the Earth Care Congregations guide at: www.pcusa.org/resource/earth-care-congregations-guide-greening-presbyteri
- Connect with ecumenical environmental work: www.creationjustice.org
- Advocate for faithful public policy change: www.pcusa.org/washington