



Greetings Advent People,

You are all in the midst of Advent now. I am guessing you are sorting through all that is fun and necessary in this Advent season. As we each are able, may we connect with the Advent prayers and disciplines that center us closer and closer to the Christ who saves and claims us.

If you are a congregation, pastor, or leader that is needing support through this season PLEASE do contact your Presbytery office. We can provide adaptive substitutes for your rituals and studies. We have also secured worship resources so that you do not need to reinvent the wheel for the Sunday after Christmas Eve. These resources will support a worship experience with or without a specific preacher or with or without music leadership.

We also invite congregations who are in need of pulpit supply through the Christmas-Tide season to consider inviting your congregation to share in an experience of a congregational Field Trip! This is a great opportunity to enter into a different space with fresh eyes and fresh hearts. Folks can practice being connectional in the Presbytery and in your community. If this idea strikes your curiosity, please contact my office and learn about best practices for shared Worship Field Trips.

Our offices can provide suggestions of where to attend online if you are choosing to stay at home. Several of our congregations provide a welcoming online or streaming worship service. This continues to be a way we share with one another in our Advent blessings.

This particular Advent I am working with *Calling All Angels* by Erin Wathen. This study provides language, ritual, and silence as some of us wrestle with “two” truths: fear and how the Angels proclaim, Do Not Be Afraid! This is a prayer from the book:

*“God, give us the courage to stand in the thin and holy places where hope and fear meet. Thank you for giving us wisdom, courage, and the support of community (our Presbytery) so that we can face our fears with hope. Send us your Angels when we lack inspiration, and let your creative word come live among us in new and surprising ways. Amen.”*

Thanks be to God that our faith grounds us in the truth that even in our doubts, fears, anxiety and real life limits we are claimed, saved, and loved.

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe