

Mennonite Church USA

MennoMedia

ADVENT AT HOME

GOD'S DREAM

Fall 2026

MennoMedia
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www.MennoMedia.org

GOD'S DREAM: ADVENT AT HOME, FALL 2026
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Content Creators

THE SOIL and THE SEED PROJECT

The Soil and The Seed Project is a community-supported ministry of the church working for spiritual renewal—in individuals, families, and communities—through beautiful, creative resources that help us together turn towards Jesus in the ordinary moments of life.

Find out more and access other resources at www.thesoilandtheseedproject.org.

Advent 2026 Playlist

The Soil and The Seed Project creates music, art, and Little Liturgies that follow the liturgical year, to help us together welcome the seed of the good news as it takes root in our lives.

These songs are a gift, given freely and available for download (not sold) to any individual or community who wants it. Access the Advent 2026 playlist via the following QR code.

Advent 2026 Song Lyrics and Chords

Access the Advent 2026 song lyrics and chords via the following QR code.

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Introduction

Welcome, friends, to the Advent at Home resource for 2026!

Over the years, Mennonite Church USA has offered resources for the special seasons of the church. These are often focused on practices with children. I'm so happy we can provide these offerings to children and their families, so that they can focus this busy season on the central thing—Jesus' arrival among us.

However, these are resources for more than children and families. The Soil and the Seed Project offers these resources for anyone who gathers. I appreciate the simplicity of the resources that allow folks to enter into this spiritual practice at all ages and stages of life. One of the most powerful experiences with The Soil and the Seed Project resources is that we hear wisdom offered around the table from the young and the old. Everyone gathered has something to share to deepen the worship experience.

The key to this resource is that a group of people gather together—to worship, to sing, to listen for God's wisdom and Spirit among them. In a time where loneliness is an epidemic, these Advent offerings require that we gather, and we ask each other simple yet powerful questions. In sharing these practices together, we lean more closely into the mystery of Jesus' incarnation, and we do it together.

This Advent season, no matter what your age or stage of life, I pray that you lean together into the mystery of God made human among us in the form of a fragile infant.

In Christ's Love,

Amy Yoder McGloughlin
Denominational Minister for Education
Mennonite Church USA

QUESTIONS

- Can you think of any good Christmas memories from when you were younger? Tell a story or two (or more).
- What is one "I wonder. . ." question that comes to mind when you read Luke 2:1–20?
- What is one way you can celebrate with others the good news of God coming near in Jesus?

PRACTICE

After reading Luke 2:1–20, use your imagination. Think about how it might have felt to have been: Joseph, the shepherds, the angels, or Mary.

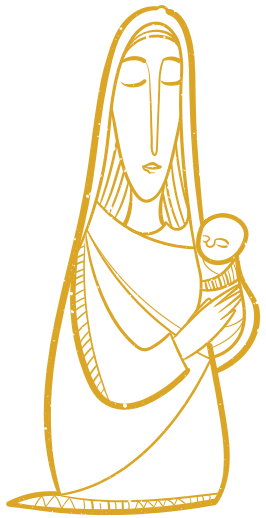
The shepherds went and told others. Close your eyes and imagine what their faces might have looked like while they were telling others about Jesus' birth. Try to make your face look like what you think the shepherds' faces looked like as they told others about Jesus.

SONG

"Watchman Tell Us of the Night" and "Gloria"

"Watchman Tell Us of the Night" *The Walking Roots Band*

"Gloria In Excelsis Deo" *The Soil and The Seed Project*



Jesus

SCRIPTURES

Luke 2:1–20, Psalm 96

LITANY

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Glory to God in the Highest!

A child has been born.
A child has been born for us.
A son has been given,
And authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6b
This is Jesus.

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Glory to God in the Highest!

Don't be afraid;
This is good news
Full of joy for all the people!
The Savior is born today.
The Messiah, the Lord.
This is the sign for you:
Wrapped in cloth,
Lying in a manger,
Bringing hope and peace.
This is Jesus.

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Glory to God in the Highest!

How to Use These Resources

The Soil and The Seed Project nurtures faith through music, art, and Little Liturgies for daily and weekly use in the home. These short liturgies are created to help establish rhythms of faith to allow God's Word to take root. There are four parts to each Little Liturgy, each designed to help cultivate "good soil" so that God's Spirit can grow good fruit in us.



1 SEED (SCRIPTURE): In Matthew 13, Jesus teaches that the good news is like scattered seed. At the top of each Little Liturgy is a scripture reference, followed by a short litany (prayer). These can be read aloud by one voice, or as a call and response with many voices repeating what is **written in bold**. Each prayer draws elements, language, and themes from that week's scripture passage.



2 SOIL (QUESTIONS): Being good soil means welcoming the seed of the good news and allowing it to take root in us and grow. The questions in the soil section of each Little Liturgy can be used by one person reading them alone, or by a group of any size. The questions are meant to help us practice listening to God and to the people around us. We hope they will also give you a chance to practice speaking about faith in God, even as you create space for and welcome questions. Our prayer is that God will reveal to all of us together how we can live out the good news of Jesus in concrete ways, wherever we are.

3 SPROUT (PRACTICE): A plant's sprout is the tangible sign that something is growing. The seed is no longer dormant, new life is springing out! This section contains an idea for a practice that will help us live out what we are hearing and reading.

4 ROOTS (MUSIC): The final section is music that roots us! This is music for growing faith as we gather to worship God together, as well as in the ordinary moments of life (driving, washing dishes, in the morning, at bedtime, etc.). These songs give us new words and prayers for throughout our week. Some songs are great for singing with a group of people, others work better with one or two voices. We have chosen one or two songs that connect with the text each week. We hope that you listen and sing along.

QUESTIONS

- What is something that has happened recently that has surprised you or that you didn't expect?
- What stands out to you about how the story of Jesus' birth is told in the gospel of Matthew?

PRACTICE

This week, pray this prayer as you come and go. Come up with motions for how you can remember each line. Or write it down on a card and stick it in your pocket, to remember as you come and go.

God, transform my mind.
God, transform my heart.
God, transform my actions.
Amen.

SONG

"Creator of the Stars of Night" and "Magnificat"

"Creator of the Stars of Night"
The Soil and The Seed Project (feat. Valerie Bess & Taylor Bess)

"Magnificat (Mighty One)"
The Soil and The Seed Project (feat. Nichole Barrows)



Love

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18–25

LITANY

It seems like a scandal . . .

Mary—pregnant
and not married.
And Joseph,
Hurt and caught in the middle,
Has a dream: This child is from God.
And what is his name?
Jesus: "God saves."
"For he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21b
It's the fulfillment of the prophecy:
"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant
and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us." Matthew 1:23

And it is a scandal.

God bending so low,
The One who spoke and the world was created,
The holy King of the Universe,
In human weakness, born a baby.
A baby in poverty,
A baby under threat,
A refugee baby,
Escaping violence.
One who will suffer and die.

God, you chose to come like this? God, you chose to come for this?

Little Liturgies

Hope

SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 1:1–7; 2:1–4; 3:3b–6, 17–19

LITANY

Do you see what is going on?
There is *so much* injustice.
When it seems like evil will win:
God, I will watch and wait for you.

Why are you silent?
Everywhere we look we see
Destruction and violence.
God, we will watch and wait for you.

Are you listening?
Can you hear me cry for help?
When it seems like evil will win:
God, I will watch and wait for you.

You will come with salvation,
You will come with justice and mercy,
You will set things right.
God, we will wait and watch for you.

QUESTIONS

- What is something that is *right* or *good* or *beautiful* in the world?
- What is something that is *wrong?*
- What would it look like for the wrong things to be put right? Think of each one.

QUESTIONS

- Can you think of a time when you heard really good news? What was it; what happened? How did you respond? What made it such good news?
- How do you tell other people when you have really good news to share?

PRACTICE

This week's passage is one of the four passages about the *suffering servant* in the book of Isaiah: **Isaiah 42:1–9;** Isaiah 49:1–6; Isaiah 50:4–11; Isaiah 52:13–53:12.

EXPLORE: what do the other three Isaiah passages listed say about this "suffering servant"?

What comes to mind? What questions do you have?

SONG

"Heal and Make Whole"

"Heal and Make Whole" *The Soil and The Seed Project (feat. Lauren Yoder & Mitchell Yoder)*



Joy

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 42:1–9

LITANY

God's servant, full of the Spirit
Will bring justice to the nations.
This is good news!

A bruised reed he won't break,
He won't shout or cry out.
This is good news!

The faithful one won't fail or falter,
This is the *Servant of the* Lord.
This is good news!

The Lord who made everything
Has called you in righteousness.
This is good news!

The Creator gives life and breath,
And will take hold of your hand.
This is good news!

There will be freedom for those in prison,
And release for people who sit in shadow.
This is good news!

Healing and hope comes from the Lord,
For the Lord is worthy of glory and praise.
This is good news!

PRACTICE

God invites us to actively *watch* and *wait*. This week, we will practice both!

THINK: Think of something that isn't right (is unjust) in your neighborhood or our world.

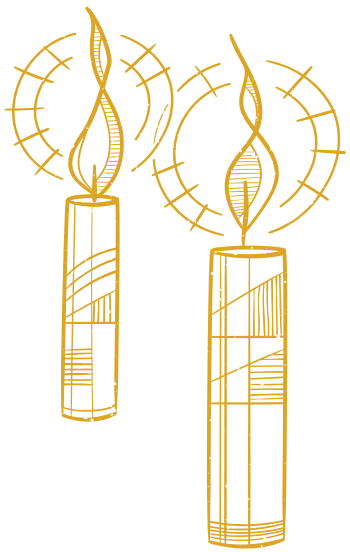
PRAY: Plan to *pray this week* for God to put things right. As we pray, God changes how we see the world around us. Our prayers don't need to be long or fancy—God doesn't really care about how smart our prayers sound or how big the words we use. Think of a prayer that you could pray throughout the day as you come and go. It can be as simple as "God, help us. Amen." or "Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy."

DO: We can *do* things as God's people even as we wait. Think of one thing you could *do* this week to share God's love with someone who is really having a hard time. Write a card, send a text or call, or bake cookies and share them.

SONG

"I Wait for the Lord"

"I Wait for the Lord"
The Soil and The Seed Project (feat. William Sumner Leaton)



Peace

SCRIPTURE

Esther 4:1–17

LITANY

God, we are looking for you:
In between the lines,
In these many moments,
In times when you seem far off.
Will you come and save?
God, help us to see you.

You have woven us together:
Into communities,
Into your people.
Where can we hide from your Spirit?
Where could we go for you?
God, help us to remember.

God, we are paying attention.
We feel what is happening:
Violence threatens the vulnerable.
Will your people shrink away?
Will your people join in your work?
God, help us to act.

You are with us in each moment:
In between the lines,
In every time and place.
What do we wait for?
God, our hope is in you.

QUESTIONS

- When was a time you were far away from home?
- What is a sight, smell, sound, or taste that you think of when you think about home?
- Talk about a happy memory of celebrating with friends or family.
- Can you think of a story with a big (good) surprise in it, maybe when things seemed really bad but ended up being okay?

PRACTICE

The story of Esther is intense. It's hard to stop reading it once you start, and it has a lot of different layers. This practice is in two parts.

PART 1: Think back on the story, or maybe retell the main points in your own words. Think about Esther, who grew up in a faraway place, exiled, and was raised by her uncle Mordecai after her parents died.

PART 2: Read Deuteronomy 10:17–21. What sticks out to you? What seems important to remember as you hold Esther's story together with Deuteronomy 10:17–21? How does any of this connect to waiting in this season of Advent?

SONG

"My Hope Is in You"

"My Hope Is in You"
The Soil and The Seed Project (feat. The Walking Roots Band)

