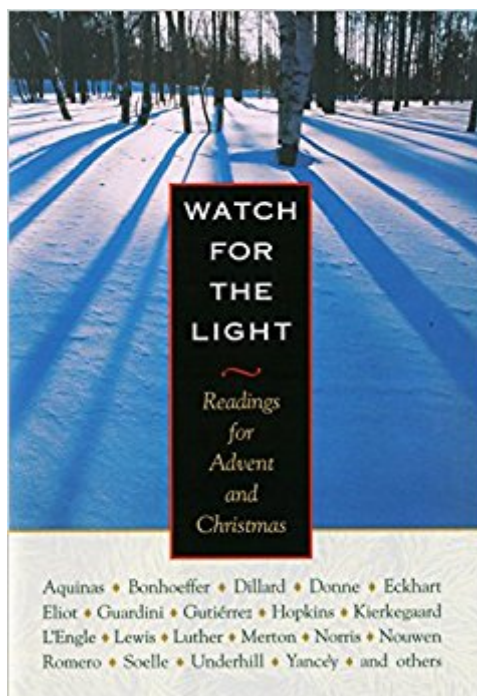


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# Watch For The Light: Readings For Advent And Christmas



## Synopsis

Though Christians the world over make yearly preparations for Lent, there's a conspicuous lack of good books for that other great spiritual season: Advent. All the same, this four-week period leading up to Christmas is making a comeback as growing numbers reject shopping-mall frenzy and examine the deeper meaning of the season. Ecumenical in scope, these fifty devotions invite the reader to contemplate the great themes of Christmas and the significance that the coming of Jesus has for each of us – not only during Advent, but every day. Whether dipped into at leisure or used on a daily basis, *Watch for the Light* gives the phrase “holiday preparations” a new depth and meaning. Includes writings by Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt, Sylvia Plath, J. B. Phillips, Friedrich Wilhelm Foerster, Henri Nouwen, Bernard of Clairvaux, Kathleen Norris, Meister Eckhart, St. Thomas Aquinas, Karl Rahner, Isaac Penington, Madeleine L'Engle, Alfred Delp, Loretta Ross-Gotta, William Stringfellow, J. Heinrich Arnold, Edith Stein, Philip Britts, Jane Kenyon, John Howard Yoder, Emmy Arnold, Karl Barth, Oscar Romero, William Willimon, Johann Christoph Arnold, Gail Godwin, Leonardo Boff, G. M. Hopkins, Evelyn Underhill, Dorothy Day, Brennan Manning, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Romano Guardini, Annie Dillard, Martin Luther, St. John Chrysostom, Giovanni Papini, Dorothee Soelle, C. S. Lewis, Gustavo Guti rrez, Philip Yancey, J. T. Clement, Thomas Merton, Eberhard Arnold, Ernesto Cardenal, T. S. Eliot, John Donne, Gian Carlo Menotti and J rgen Moltmann.

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## Customer Reviews

It's hard to go wrong with 40 essays and poems from theological writers such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, Madeleine L'Engle, Martin Luther, Kathleen Norris, Henri Nouwen, Philip Yancey, Karl Barth and Søren Kierkegaard. These are not frivolous, feel-good Advent readings; they are deep, sometimes jarring reflections, many with a strong orientation toward social justice (other authors include liberationists Leonardo Boff, Gustavo Guti rrez and Oscar Romero). "The love that descended to Bethlehem is not the easy sympathy of an avuncular God, but a burning fire whose light chases away every shadow, floods every corner, and turns midnight into noon," explain the editors. This collection, born of obvious passion and graced with superb writing, is a welcome even necessary addition to the glutted holiday bookshelves. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

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After enjoying this book for about 10 years, I've started giving it to friends as an early Christmas present. I have a lot of different books and devotionals on my shelf for the various seasons of the church year, and this is far and away my favorite. Deep, rich, thoughtful, broad, provocative, challenging, yet firmly grounded in the message that God loves us enough to become one of us in order to achieve our salvation.

Plan to use this for this coming Christmas season. Readings are several pages long, but not too long.

Thought provoking and wonderful meditations through the Advent season with authors ranging from early church fathers to the libretto of "Amahl and the Night Visitors". I have used it more than once, and each time am challenged and moved in different ways. Writings vary in length and difficulty, sometimes making it difficult with a constrained meditation time.

good

One of the best, if not the best, collection of Advent devotional reading I have read. When I had read several of the selections I ordered copies to give to family members.

This book helps make Advent happen. While we mostly bulldoze over Advent to get to Christmas Day, this book helps slow things down and supports the preparatory season. It's a little like opening the Advent calendar windows, with a reading or poem each day. The readings allow for reflection and re-reading. I've been quoting sections of the book to many others. Most of these readings appear as short sermons on a particular topic. Whether written in 1600 or 2000, there is contemporary and, most importantly, personal application. One author quotes John Wesley: "Nothing is more repugnant to capable, reasonable people than grace." As a culture of givers rather than receivers, this book reminded me that grace came down quietly and humbly as an infant, a gift for me, for you. Eventually your tree will be up, gifts wrapped, cards sent, meals eaten. But for 15 minutes each day these readings will allow you to leave the chaos, and keep you on track, waiting to receive, and be glad of it.

This is an excellent devotional for Advent. I found it in the bookstore of the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The noted Christian (and some secular) thinkers from across the centuries take the devotional reader beyond the surface traditions and "candles" of Advent to new places of meditation and thought centering upon the mystery and awe of the birth of Christ. As I followed the readings day by day, I was so inspired I immediately purchased (via ) two more copies for friends as Christmas gifts, so that next year they might enjoy and be inspired by the journey to Bethlehem. If you are a thinker and want to hear from great minds (as well as an occasional poem or two-even a submission from the likes of Sylvia Plath!) and want to go further in your personal understanding of Advent and the mysteries and truth of God's greatest act of love, I would highly recommend this devotional to you.

As a seeker, long time solid believer whose faith has been deeply shaken, this book was really good for me. I love that there were poems for some readings, and some were full of faith, while some came from a place of seeking, like me.

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