

## **AdventUs: Joining a Hope that has Come – November 29**

*AdventUs: Joining a Hope that has Come* is a hymn for a time such as now, a collective of voices speaking blessing and encouragement to the light within each of us. It's a song rising from the deepest indwelling truth that Christ not only came to earth through Jesus, but is still coming through to this day by and through those who awaken to the gift and answer the call.

Accepting the gift of this inner glimmer awakens us to a God that we can have faith in and give our trust to. We begin to see that God is putting life, love, faith, trust, and hope in us. Imagine it: God put Godself in human form. God has placed hope in us. What are we to do with it?



### **Preparing to Listen**

Give some thought to how you want to watch and listen. For instance, you may decide that you want to listen for the particular word or phrase that pops out for you. In this case, you might want to have a pen handy to capture it when it grabs you. Don't overthink it. Just open yourself to whatever comes, to whatever word or phrase flashes before you as if suddenly in neon lights. You can sort out why you think those words called to you later.

You might also want to put yourself in the mode of allowing the film to take you back in time. Sometimes the way God speaks to us is not directly through the words of another but through a memory which those words reminded us of. So, yes, listen intently to the speakers in the film, but don't be afraid to let yourself drift a bit as you listen. Let the words of the speakers carry you back and reconnect you with a memory that echoes their content.

Practice noticing. There are two ancient practices of noticing, one is *Lectio Divina* (listening for a word, thought, or idea) and then there is *Visio Divina* (watching for an image and letting it lead you.) You can practice either or both with this film.

Quiet yourself. Take in a deep breath and let it out slowly.

*What do you need to let go of to be fully present in for this experience?*

**Video Part One**

**What are we waiting for?**

**What if God is waiting for us to wake up to what is here?**

Notes/Noticings:

*If Jesus were to come like a thief in the night, what would you want him to steal away with?*

*What gives you hope?*



## **AdventUs: The Risk of Incarnation – December 6**

Take in the following verse from John 1.

**Before time itself was measured,  
the voice was speaking.  
The voice was and is God.**

**This celestial word remained ever present  
with the creator;  
his speech shaped the entire cosmos.  
Immersed in the practice of creating,  
all things that exist were birthed in him.**

**his breath filled all things  
with a living, breathing light—  
a light that thrives in the depths of darkness,  
blazes through murky bottoms.  
It cannot and will not be quenched.**

—John 1:1-5, The Voice Bible



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**Video Part Two**  
**Love in the Flesh:**  
**The Risk of Incarnation**

Notes/Noticings:

It was stated in the film that God is love, and Jesus is what God looks like in the flesh; and that God is “an other-centered, self-giving love that wants to be shared.”

*How do you experience God's love? How do you share it? Where have you seen love in desolate places?*

**AdventUs:  
Open Ears and Open Eyes: Transformation – December 13**

**We could not become like God,  
so God became like us  
God showed us how to heal instead of kill,  
how to mend instead of destroy,  
how to love instead of hate,  
how to live instead of long for more.  
When we nailed God to a tree,  
God forgave.  
And when we buried God in the ground,  
God got up.**

~ Rachel Held Evans



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**Video Part Three**  
**Open Ears and Open Eyes:**  
**Transformation**

Notes/Noticings:

“If you don’t expect the unexpected, you won’t find it.” Where have you seen a miracle?

What are those things that sustain us, and guide us, and hold us?

**Love. Period.**

