



# At a Glance – Seasons of Advent and Christmas 2020–21



At a Glance – Seasons of Advent and Christmas 2019–20 is also available in the Planning folder. The personal reflection is also provided separately as a text file in the [Planning folder](#).

Date	Nov 29, 2020	Dec 6, 2020	Dec 13, 2020	Dec 20, 2020	Dec 27, 2020	Jan 3, 2021
Liturgical date	Advent 1	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas 1	Christmas 2

Title	Reshape, Reclaim, Remember	Remind, Reveal, Reinforce	Refocus, Restore, Rejoice	Reflect, Resist, Re-imagine	Reaffirm, Redeem, Rename	Recognize, Re-engage, Respond
-------	----------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------

Lections	<b>Isaiah 64:1–9</b> Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 Mark 13:34–37	<b>Isaiah 40:1–11</b> Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13 2 Peter 3:8–15a Mark 1:1–8	Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 <b>Psalm 126</b> or Luke 1:46b–55 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 John 1:6–8, 19–28	2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 <b>Luke 1:46b–55</b> or Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26 Romans 16:25–27 <b>Luke 1:26–38</b>	Isaiah 61:10—62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4–7 <b>Luke 2:22–40</b>	Jeremiah 31:7–14 or Sirach 24:1–12 Psalm 147:12–20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15–21 Ephesians 1:3–14 <b>John 1:1–9), 10–18</b>
----------	---	--	---	---	--	--

**Emphasis for worship, learning, and serving**

With heightened anticipation, we wait for Love to be born, and reflect on ways our waiting might be active in reshaping, reclaiming and remembering.

With the people of Israel and the people of Mark's gospel, we remind ourselves of the restoration we hope for ourselves and the world and expect God to show up and be revealed in the everyday, the ordinary.

On this third week of Advent, we live into the joy of God. We rejoice in the therapeutic nature of God and refocus on the one who is to come.

A song of resistance and revolution, challenges us to reflect God's love by highlighting the creative power of God, while a letter to the early Church delves us into re-imagining who God is, who God uses, and who God calls us to be.

We enter the Christmas season reaffirming the power of Christ's redemptive work that began at creation and was made manifest at his birth.

We move from preparing for the birth of Christ to witnessing to the Light of Love, "God with us" in such changes in our lives and in the world.

**Personal reflection**

You might send weekly e-mails to people on your e-mail list throughout the Seasons of Advent and Christmas, posting each week to your congregation's social networking site, or adding to your bulletin.

The Advent readings from Isaiah are spoken to a community who are also longing for their lives to reflect God's ways of peace and justice. Conflict and unfairness are all around us. Unfortunately, they are often deep within us, too.

**This week**, think about what the people around you are longing for. Blog or journal about the longings you see.

The psalmist recalls God's powerful presence with the people in the past; by doing so invokes hope for the future.

Have you ever been so happy that you had to double-check to make sure you weren't dreaming?

With the angel's announcement to Mary, we catch a vision of how completely lives can be changed. Sometimes, life can be changed in a moment. At such times, it's good to have people around who can help us stay grounded.

**This week**, think about gifts given and received for Christmas. Imagine the size of God's love that inspired God to give such a gift as the one given in Jesus.

The change in us, which comes because we become acquainted with the One whom God sent at Christmas, brings about a change in our approach to others. If we give it a chance, we find ourselves reconciled and present to one another in genuine community.

**This week**, seek out someone and make genuine efforts to listen and understand them and find places of common ground.





# At a Glance – Season After the Epiphany 2021



At a Glance – Season After the Epiphany 2020 is also available in the Planning folder. The personal reflection is also provided separately as a text file in the [Planning folder](#).

Date	Jan 10, 2021	Jan 17, 2021	Jan 24, 2021	Jan 31, 2021	Feb 7, 2021	Feb 14, 2021
<b>Liturgical date</b>	1st after the Epiphany 1st Sunday in Ordinary Time Baptism of Christ	2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	4th Sunday after the Epiphany 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	5th Sunday after the Epiphany 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Transfiguration Sunday Last Sunday after the Epiphany
<b>Title</b>	Coming through the Waters	Coming through the Night	Coming through the Call	Coming through the Holy Places	Coming through Captivity	Coming through the Clouds
<b>Lections</b> (The focus in the age-level materials is in bold.)	Genesis 1:1–5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1–7 <b>Mark 1:4–11</b>	<b>1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20)</b> Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18 1 Corinthians 6:12–20 John 1:43–51	Jonah 3:1–5, 10 Psalm 62:5–12 1 Corinthians 7:29–31 <b>Mark 1:14–20</b>	Deuteronomy 18:15–20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1–13 <b>Mark 1:21–28</b>	Isaiah 40:21–31 Psalm 147:1–11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16–23 <b>Mark 1:29–39</b>	2 Kings 2:1–12 Psalm 50:1–6 2 Corinthians 4:3–6 <b>Mark 9:2–9</b>
<b>Emphasis for worship, learning, and serving</b>	Stories of creation and psalms of praise blend with stories of baptism this week and call our attention to the ways we need both spirit and body to live our faith.	Stories about awakening to God’s call foreshadow the ways that God brings us through the unknown, and we consider what it means to pursue an understanding about God and our call as God’s people.	In this season of sustained discovery, we, accompanied by stories such as Jonah and some fishers, settle into a new sense of call or a renewed sense of purpose.	Prophecy, blessings, conversations, and a teacher with a difference leads to reflection on what makes a holy place.	As Jesus lifts up Peter’s mother-in-law to minister to others, we consider our role in proclaiming the gospel, telling the stories that will bring healing, freedom, and wholeness to people around us.	We sit with Peter, James, and John on a mountain as they experience an awesome sight in Jesus’ life, and told of an even greater miracle to come.
<b>Personal reflection</b> You might send weekly e-mails to people on your e-mail list throughout the Season After the Epiphany, posting each week to your congregation’s social networking site, or adding to your bulletin.	John the baptizer’s prophetic words are limited to announcing that an important “someone” was coming. John’s focus is for repentance and life change.	John the baptizer’s prophetic words are limited to announcing that an important “someone” was coming. John’s focus is for repentance and life change.	The call of the four fishers might be familiar. Jesus’ invitation was decisive, and the four had to choose and act immediately. Jesus calls us, as he called the four, to lives of discipleship.	The people are amazed at Jesus’ teaching in the temple. His authority is like no other. To whose voice do you give authority?	As suggested in Mark 1:29–39, the life of a Christian – doing justice, offering hope and healing, and walking with God – requires a balance of work in a world and a connecting with God.	Some experiences are bigger than words. <b>This week</b> , photograph or draw an image that shows where you see God. Share it widely.
	<b>This week</b> , keep your eyes open for God’s leading in unusual situations.	<b>This week</b> , reflect on the ministry to which you have been called.	<b>This week</b> , list three things you’d be thrilled to leave behind to follow God and three things that would be hard to leave.	<b>This week</b> , pay close attention to that person and see if you can figure out why.	<b>This week</b> , ask someone whose active and visibly-lived faith you admire, “What is the one thing you find most important to remember to do in your work and your faith?”	

