

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Advent of God's Word: Listening for the Power of the Divine Whisper—A Daily Retreat and Devotional

Rev. Dr. Brenda K. Buckwell, Obl. OSB

Week 1: The Terrain for Whispers—Discerning the Landscape of the Heart

“The Advent journey is one of looking at both resistances and places of un-freedom in our lives. We also look for the dawning glimmers of God’s light, calling forth our attention as the Spirit sweeps over us, illumining the way through even the thickets, brambles and briars of our lives.”
(page 12)

Take a contemplative pause today, and consider the condition of your heart as the Advent season draws near. What is the soil of your heart like as you prepare to receive Jesus’ new birth this season?

What color do you imagine the landscape of your heart is as you enter Advent?

Week 2: Whispering Songs of Expectation—Choice: Listening for the Transformational Whisper

“For me, lighting this second candle is a symbol of the human desire to live as Jesus lived, to love as Jesus loved. This way of loving is intentional and filled with choices.” (page 36)

Consider what habits of heart—little reactions, quirks or personality traits—regularly arise within your relationships. During this Advent season, what do you imagine you want to release to make more room in your heart for Jesus’ virtue of love?

How will you choose to love more purely, the way Jesus loves?

Week 3: Companions for the Journey—Deep Joy: Listening to the Soul’s Song

“The annual rhythm of lighting the Advent wreath anchors family and church life alike in soul-deep joy as we experience the cosmic Divine whisper of love.” (pages 76–77)

To whom do you turn to share your soul-deep joy in love of Jesus?

How do you hear God whispering to your heart?

Week 4: Celebrate! The Power of a Whispered Life—New Life Springs Forth

“Here in the anticipation of Jesus’ birthing, transformation of heart and soul is noticed for those who follow his ways and seek to live peace on earth.” (page 115)

Where do you desire Jesus' transforming love to kiss your life with new possibilities?

When you let go of the past and enter into God's preferred future, how do you experience hope, love, joy and peace?

Epilogue: The *Adventure* into the New Year—The Foundation for Daily Devotion

"It is my prayer that with this epilogue you will find ways to intentionally integrate your experience from this daily devotional and retreat during Advent into the power and presence of each day of this new year." (page 154)

When you think about loving Jesus more deeply in the coming months of your life, what prayer practice is attractive to your soul?

How do you pray to mark special celebrations and events in your life?