



Dear Friends,

You may experience Advent through your eyes. Advent is the colour of deepest blue. The colour of the sky on a clear December morning around 7:30am, when the cold sun is lazily making its presence known in the east. Advent is the colour of shining white in the black, as one household at a time notices the gloom of the short days, the increasing darkness, and responds with that most basic of human responses: lighting lights.

You may experience Advent through your ears. In our secular world, Advent is the sound of omni-present Christmas cheer, an endless onslaught of a small selection of accepted Christmas standards. In many of our homes, Advent is the sound of that special music which has become family favourites, which call to mind dearly-held memories, which make us want to sing or dance or weep. In our church, Advent is the sound of waiting, of not yet singing of Christmas and Christ's birth, instead of dwelling in the promise, the expectation, the hope, desire. *O come, Emmanuel!*

You may experience Advent through activity. Bustling, fever-pitched shopping malls. Christmas cards and decorating, climbing ladders and making lists. Planning, travelling, scheduling. Trying to fit it all in. Trying to remember what it's all about.

I experience Advent through taste. Peppermint and chocolate in Candy Cane ice-cream, the first taste of the season. The tang of pomegranate contrasting the salt of feta cheese in my favourite winter salad. The subtle caramel of burnt butter, dripping from pasta noodles and sprinkled with mizithra – a rare cheese that inevitably involves many phone calls and at least one long trip in order to find and acquire in time for our mid-December family Advent feast. The creamy richness of homemade fudge, the decadent taste of shortbread batter, the runny, syrupy goodness of real butter tarts. And almond cake. Made from my grandmother's beloved recipe. The crowning taste of the season. Dense and soft, with a crunch on top – almond cake is an event, a baking date with my father, an instant transportation back to the Decembers of my childhood, to the time of magic and mystery, to surprises tantalizing me under the tree and Santa's elves peering in through our windows, always so quick and crafty that it was only my grandfather who ever saw them.

Are you hungry? Hunger is the pre-requisite for Advent. An awareness that there is more. That our lives, our world, can be more. That God promises, enacts, a response to that hunger, the only response that can ultimately satisfy – the gift of Love, of Self. That we can, in small but powerful ways, mirror, reflect, that response in our own acts of giving, giving of heart, soul, senses – sight, sound, taste – in shaping these dark days into a journey of offering, light, meaning.

What do you hunger for this Advent? How, out of your hunger, may you join God's response to our Hungry World? And, ultimately, where (with what / whom) are you fed?

May your hunger for God, your taste for the season, bless and nourish you this Advent.

Yours faithfully,



Reverend Martha
And The Clergy & Corporation of St. George's

Christmas Services



December 16th	Sunday School Christmas Concert 10am
December 16th	Lessons & Carols 4pm
December 24th Christmas Eve	4:00 PM Childrens Service
December 24th Christmas Eve	7:00 PM
December 24th Christmas Eve	10:00 PM
December 25th Christmas Day	10:00 AM Service Only

Office Closed December 26 - January 2nd, 2019
No service on Wednesday or Advent Café during the holidays.

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Facebook: "St.George's Anglican Church"