

Webber, Robert E. *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year*.

Grand Rapids, MI: BakerBooks, 2004.

The First Sunday of Advent is the first day of the new liturgical year. As such, Advent is a great time to think about how the Church keeps time. In this book, Webber (who was a convert to Anglicanism) teaches about the meaning and purpose of the Church's Liturgical Calendar, including the various Seasons and Principle Feasts of the Christian Year. Rather than being an abstract book, however, Webber weaves in his own story experiencing the calendar as a convert and how it can help all of us grow in our love for Jesus Christ, whose life is the orientation of the Liturgical Calendar.

Athanasius. *On the Incarnation*. Popular Patristics Series. Yonkers, New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2011.

A classic work of the Great Tradition. St. Athanasius expounds on the Person and work of Jesus Christ by focusing on the reality of the Incarnation. The goal, he says, is that we would grow in our piety towards Christ by growing in our understanding of His Incarnation. Truly a seasonally relevant read at a mostly accessible level. This book is a great place to start reading the Church Fathers – and don't miss C. S. Lewis' preface, which is worth the price of the book itself.

Webster, John. *Christ our Salvation: Expositions and Proclamations*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020.

Webster was an immensely respected Anglican theologian and teacher, as is attested to by the blurbs, from across the spectrum of Christian denominations, written for this book. In this collection of 27 sermons, Webster helps us to better understand God's saving work for us in and through His Son, Jesus Christ, by focusing on different aspects of Salvation, including, amongst other things, the God of Salvation, His Love, and the effects of salvation on us. Each sermon is a gem of theological reading and teaching on Holy Scripture.

Pitre, Brant. *The Case for Jesus: The Biblical and Historical Evidence for Christ*.

This book is a recommendation by Fr. John. I asked him to suggest a book that was influential on his Adventen class on the four Gospels. Without hesitation, he named this book. The author, a Roman Catholic scholar, deals with many of the questions that surround the Person of Jesus Christ by focusing on the Historical and Biblical evidence for Christ being who the Church says He is, the Risen Son of God.

Wu Song, Felicia. *Restless Devices: Recovering Personhood, Presence, and Place in the Digital Age*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2021.

During Advent we look to grow in our Christ-likeness through the spiritual disciplines. In this book, Wu Song explores how our current cultural imagination has been shaped by what she, following prominent tech executives, calls “the Digital.” She argues that the Digital, through addiction to our devices and influencing the way that we inhabit/see the world, has de-formed us and our relationships with others. Here she offers strategies, including the discipline of fasting, to help correct and re-form us back into Christ-likeness. A helpful read to help parents think about their kids use of technology. This book will be touched on in the parenting class.

Lewis, Clive Staples. *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

In the Chronicles of Narnia, the great Anglican thinker and writer, C. S. Lewis, offers much of the True Myth of Christianity in story form. Indeed, the Great Lion, Aslan, is a clear Christ-figure present throughout the entire series. Here, in *The Lion the Witch and Wardrobe*, all the essentials of the series – the places, the struggles, the characters – are introduced, thus making this the best place to enter the series. No matter your age, this is a moving allegory of the Christian faith and life with much winsome wisdom and insight to be gained. It makes the Advent reading list because Lewis includes Father Christmas in this particular story.

Barron, Robert. *Advent Gospel Reflections*. Elk Grove Village, IL: Word on Fire, 2023.

A collection of short, daily devotions on the Gospel readings assigned for each day in Advent written by one of the prominent thinkers in contemporary American Christianity, Bishop Robert Barron. We will have a few copies available in the office.

Bonus Media:

Mars Hill Audio Journal

My favorite podcast! Indeed, Mars Hill Audio was a pioneer in podcasting going all the way back to the 90’s. The host, Ken Myers, interviews prominent Christian thinkers, ranging from artists, to clerics, to theologians, about topics relevant to being a disciple of Christ in our particular cultural moment. If you are a podcast listener, I highly recommend this one.