

Bread for the Journey, Part XXVII:  
Devotions for Advent and Christmas



*For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water...  
(Isaiah 35:6b-7a).*

**Join us every Sunday at 10:15 a.m. for continuing live streaming of the liturgy accessed through the website by clicking [HERE](#).**

**Recordings of the services are uploaded to the same site for viewing at a later date.**



*Here is one of several "burning bushes" on the church grounds--- this one on the west property line of the parsonage. The red is so brilliant and breathtaking, but as you probably know, lasts only a short time (unlike the burning bush that speaks to Moses!) after an entire season of shyly blending in with the other trees and shrubs.*

**E-Worship Folder [HERE](#).**



## [The Seal Lullaby](#)

Composed by Eric Whitacre; performed by VOCES8 on the album "Eventide"

Recently I've been listening to this soul-soothing lullaby which uses the words of "Seal Lullaby," a poem written by Rudyard Kipling and included in his *The Jungle Book*:

**Oh! Hush thee, my baby, the night is behind us,  
And black are the waters that sparkled so green.  
The moon, o'er the combers, looks downward to find us,  
At rest in the hollows that rustle between.  
Where billow meets billow, then soft be thy pillow,  
Oh weary wee flipperling, curl at thy ease!  
The storm shall not wake thee, nor shark overtake thee,  
Asleep in the arms of the slow swinging seas!**

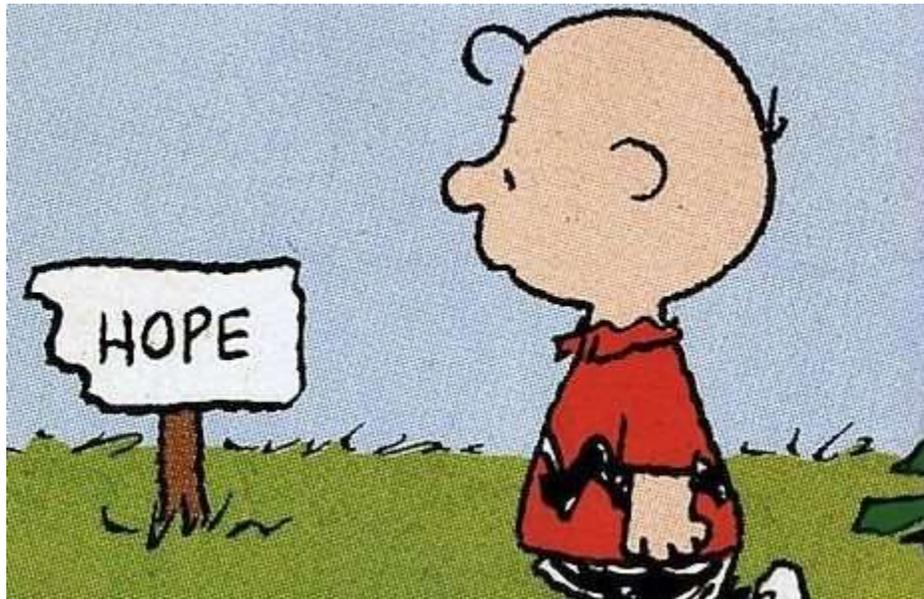
You may know that "The White Seal" (chapter 4 of *The Jungle Book*) is the story of the albino seal messiah Kotick who saves his kind from the slaughtering fur traders by finding them a beach completely inaccessible to humans on which they could live. That story begins with the "Seal Lullaby." On the website Poetic Anthropology "Bernadette" writes: "The poem has an affectionate, dreamlike quality particularly suited to a lullaby. Kipling uses the archaic familiar "thee" throughout, a convention he often uses in his work when animals speak. This sometimes indicates increased formality, but also implies that he is translating from another language (in this case seal language), which has retained the familiar which modern English has lost. The use of the familiar contributes to the sweet tone of the poem, helping the reader feel the deep love and care between a mother and her baby. All mothers are the same, Kipling seems to say, whether they rock their babies to sleep in wooden rockers or between ocean waves." May you slumber in the "slow swinging seas."



## Oplatky for Christmas



Oplatky, a wafer traditionally used in homes at Christmastime in Central and Eastern European countries, will be available throughout the season of Advent by **pre-placing an order through the church office** with Karen for "carry out" at the second level west parking lot entrance Monday thru Thursday mornings, 9 a.m. - noon. A donation of \$1.50 per package (½ dozen) is appreciated.



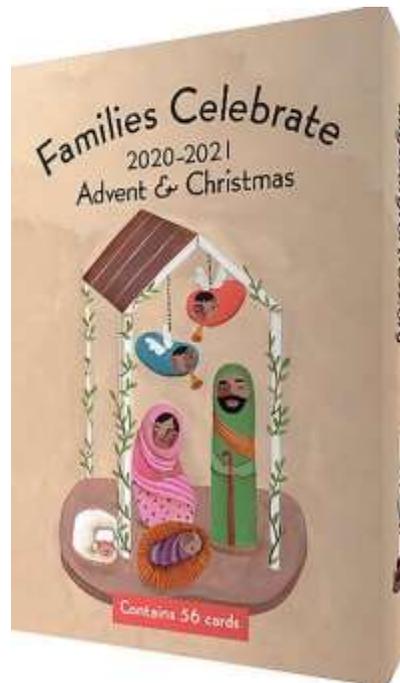
Since most of us will not have an opportunity to obtain Advent and Christmas prayer and devotional materials at church on Sundays, these may be ordered by way of the links to Augsburg Fortress Publishing House found below, including individual and family devotions.

 AUGSBURG FORTRESS



## New Individual and Family Devotions for this Advent and Christmas

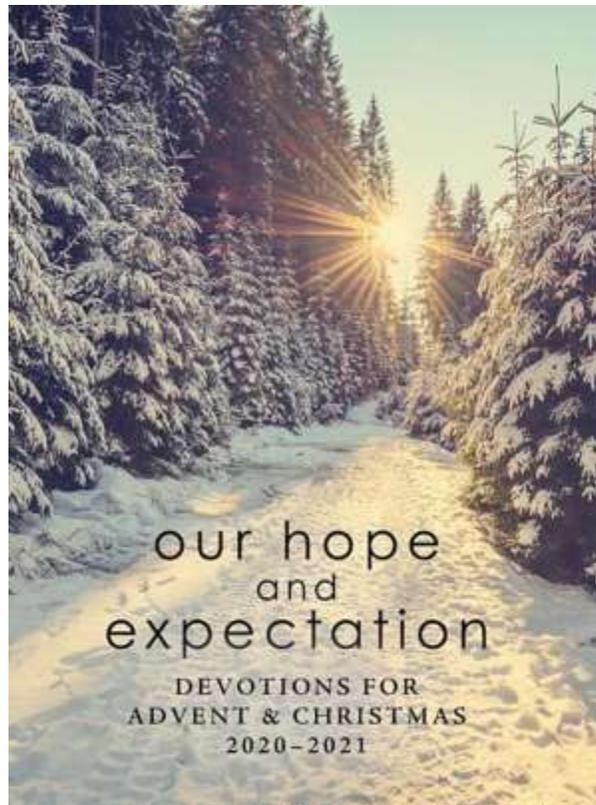
Available today, these two new dated devotionals will make it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into the joyful seasons of Advent, Christmas through Epiphany. Quantity discounts available from the Augsburg Fortress website enable these to be purchased for your entire congregation, for families, or for small groups to encourage continued growth and reflection throughout what will likely be a different Advent and Christmas season than those we have observed in the past.



### **Families Celebrate Advent and Christmas 2020-2021**

The latest Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas annual devotion is available for order today! This colorful deck of cards is full of rituals, prayers and reflections. Endlessly flexible for busy schedules, you can create a new after-meal ritual, use them as decorations, or carry them on the go. Encourage families to explore the entire season from Advent to Christmas through Epiphany. These make a great gift for families in your congregation! Quantity discounts available from Augsburg Fortress.

[Order Today](#)



## **Our Hope & Expectation: Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2020-2021**

Contributors include: Michael Coffey, Pam Fickenscher, Paul Hoffman, Annabelle Markey, Troy M. Troftgruben, and Rozella Haydée White

Following in the same format of Devotions for Lent, Augsburg Fortress is excited to release a new devotion for Advent and Christmas this year. *Our Hope and Expectation* explores the Advent season and celebrates the joy of the twelve days of Christmas and the day of Epiphany. It includes daily devotions based on year B scripture readings (in the Revised Common Lectionary) for Sundays and festival days between the first Sunday of Advent (November 29, 2020) and Epiphany (January 6, 2021). In addition to devotions, the book offers household blessings and prayers to enrich your preparations and celebrations. Available in pocket size and large print. Quantity discounts available from Augsburg Fortress.

[Order Today](#)