

**OSTS Lecture, Fall of 2024, 2nd term
November 4th - December 2nd**

Course **E** ***Why Advent? Christmas is almost here (Zoom Class)***

Lecturer: Reverend Martin Malina

Descriptor

Advent is the unsung hero of the church calendar even though it is what our world most desperately needs. When everyone is already celebrating Christmas, we do something else in the four weeks before December 25th. In the gentle pacing of Advent, we discover what hope really means. (48 words)

Outline

Week 1: The timing and pace of Advent - the church year, four Sundays (hope, peace, joy, love), Intro to the four sets of characters: prophets/prophecy, Mary & Joseph/Bethlehem, shepherds, angels.

Week 2: The longing of our hearts - Advent's gift to acknowledge the value of waiting and watching. Prophets & Prophecy.

Week 3: Variety in the traditions of Advent (colors, candles & calendars); the purpose of preparation and discipline. Mary & Joseph /Bethlehem.

Week 4: The meaning of Advent - the symbolic meaning of four in Christian tradition/ journeying towards the promise-fulfilled. Shepherds.

Week 5: The Advent Wreath; an enduring symbol for faith. Angels.

Bibliography:

Pennoyer, G., & Wolfe, G. (Eds.). (2015). *God with Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas*. Paraclete Press.

Rohr, R. (2008). *Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent*. St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Bio

Reverend Martin Malina is currently the Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Ottawa, and Dean of the Ottawa Ministry Area in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. He serves on the Board of the Canadian Christian Meditation Community and is a patron of the Ottawa Multifaith Housing Initiative. He received his M. Div. at Martin Luther University College in Waterloo, Ontario, and is currently achieving a graduate level degree in Counselling and Psychology from Yorkville University. He has previously taught at OSTs.