

New Again - An Advent Journey

Note: Each gospel writer begins the story of Jesus' life in a different place, each vantage offering a distinctive view of their newly emerging community and its purpose. When we have a new story to tell, change to assimilate, where do we begin? Let's look to the gospel stories in search of clues for approaching change.

Texts and Themes

Advent 1 - New Again ?!?! Mark Begins

Baptism by Immersion -

The Case for Jumping In

Opening Prayer:

Locusts, wild honey, and a call to repentance beckon from the river.

The story of Jesus begins

with a believer's acceptance of a call.

May we find courage in the call

even as the winds of change billow 'round.

Advent 2 - New Again. Luke Begins

A Familiar Story - Hero Story Motif

Opening Prayer:

Created from mystery,

untouched by earthly seed.

The story of Jesus begins

as a hero is conceived.

May we find hope in the mystery

that plagues our need to understand.

Advent 3 - New Again! - Matthew Begins

Grounded in our History -

Looking at Genealogy

Opening Prayer:

A list of "begats" bear witness to triumph and tragedy.

The story of Jesus begins

by naming the roots.

May we find peace as we bear witness

to the places from whence we come.

Advent 4 - New Again? - John Begins

Nothing New Under the Sun -

In the Beginning was the Word

Opening Prayer:

In the beginning was the Word, says John.

The story of Jesus begins

with a proclamation of faith.

May we find joy in proclaiming

the unquenchable Word bursting forth even now.

Litany based on Gospel Beginnings

From the people who knew Jesus the man we learn the stories of his teaching and healing which pointed to a power beyond his own.

Moved by the witness of Jesus' work we begin again with renewed faithfulness.

From the world that surrounded the birth of Jesus we learn the mythology of ancient god's whose children, born of mortals, were heroes.

Captivated by the miracle of birth we expect great things from this new beginning.

From the community in which Jesus grew we learn the prophetic stories that tell of time to come in which the hope of a people is restored.

Impressed by the lineage of faithful leaders we begin again by remembering our history together.

From the ancient voices of wisdom we learn that the power to which Jesus pointed is the source of life itself, with no beginning and no end.

Touched by the depth of mystery our new beginning is born in silent wonderment.
