

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
Presbyterian Church

### “WAITING FOR THE WORD”

For individual study or group discussion

DATE: November 30, 2025

SPEAKER: Brian/Frank

SERIES: Advent 2025

PASSAGE: John 1:1-5

## Family Dinner Table

Advent is a season of waiting: waiting with hope, longing, and expectation for God to speak. And John tells us that God has spoken, not merely in sentences or by the prophets, but in a Person. *“In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God”* (John 1:1). John opens his Gospel with a deliberate echo of Genesis 1, showing us that Jesus does not enter the story of the world halfway through; he stands at the beginning, eternal and uncreated, *“the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation”* (Colossians 1:15).

### We wait expectantly for the Word who exists eternally. (vv. 1-2)

Before anything began, the Word already was. Advent invites us to slow down and remember that the child in the manger is the ancient Word who spoke galaxies into being. In Christ, the eternal God steps into time, making himself knowable, near, and understandable.

- Read Colossians 1:15-17. How does knowing that *“all things were created through him and for him”* bring you hope this Advent season?
- Read Genesis 1. What was God doing *“in the beginning”* (v. 1)? Discuss how John is placing Jesus’ story in a cosmic context.

### We wait expectantly for the Word who creates all things. (v. 3)

Secondly, we wait for the Word who creates all things. John says, *“All things were made through him”* (v. 3), linking Jesus directly to Genesis 1 where God’s spoken word orders chaos into creation. Advent reminds us that the incarnation marks the beginning of a new creation. In him is life: a life that heals, restores, and reorders what sin has fractured. Just as God once said, *“Let there be light,”* so in Christ he speaks life into our emptiness. In Jesus, the Creator comes not to destroy the old world but to recreate it from the inside out.

- John connects Jesus to the creation story in Genesis 1. How does seeing Jesus as the Creator deepen your understanding of his incarnation?
- Read Revelation 21:1-7. How can the idea of Jesus beginning a new creation through his incarnation help shape your view of Advent season?

### We wait expectantly for the Word who shines light in the darkness. (vv. 4-5)

John declares, *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it”* (v. 5). This is the hope Isaiah foretold of the first Advent, a Messiah would rise among his people and banish the darkness that covers the world, making a way to be reconciled to God (Isaiah 60:1-3). Revelation 22:1-5 promises that, at his second Advent, the darkness will be banished once and for all by the Lamb of God who will be our light. As we enter a new Advent season, may we wait expectantly while living in the tension of the *“already and not yet.”* We inhabit a world where darkness still lingers, but the dawn has already broken upon us. The Word has come, the Word is speaking, and the Word will come again.

- Where do you see darkness in the world—or in your own life—that needs the light of Christ?
- Revelation 22:1-5 shows a future where darkness is fully banished. How does that future hope help you live faithfully in the *“already and not yet”*?
- What practices or habits might help you pay attention to the light of Christ in this Advent season, even while the world around you feels dark?

### God’s Messenger

from *The Jesus Storybook Bible*

by Sally Lloyd-Jones

Do you remember the story of Jonah, the man who tried to run away from God and ended up inside a big fish for three days? Sally Lloyd-Jones reminds us that Jonah was a messenger. God sent him to tell people a very important message: that God loves them and wants them to turn back to him. But Jonah’s story is also like a giant arrow pointing forward to someone even greater.

She says that many years later, God sent another Messenger: his own Son, Jesus. Just like Jonah spent three days in darkness, Jesus would spend three days in the tomb. But Jesus wasn’t just bringing God’s message. Jesus *was* God’s message! The Bible calls Him *“the Word,”* because everything God wants to say to us is shown perfectly in Jesus: he is the source of revelation and grace for humanity. So when you hear about Jesus being *the Word* who was with God in the beginning, who made everything, and who shines light in dark places, remember this: Jesus came so we could understand exactly who God is. When you think about Jesus during Advent season, remember that he is the Good News for the whole world!

- Read Hebrews 1:1-3a. Jesus is *“God’s Messenger”* and everything God wants to tell us in a person. How does the author of Hebrews and John 1:1-5 describe him?

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

PCA Committee on  
Administration,  
denominational partner ministry

### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Andy and Bev Warren, *serve with  
MTW Ethiopia church planting team*