



Doorways into Hope and Joy

at Advent & Christmas

MICHAEL MCGIRR

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
---------------------	----------

28 DAYS OF ADVENT

Day 1	God of the Front Door	4
Day 2	God of the Post Office Box Door	6
Day 3	God of the Flyscreen Door	8
Day 4	God of the Powerbox Door	10
Day 5	God of the Wardrobe Door	12
Day 6	God of the Grocery Door	14
Day 7	God of the Locked Door	16
Day 8	God of the Emergency Door	18
Day 9	God of the Bus Door	20
Day 10	God of the Classroom Door	22
Day 11	God of the Fruit Shop Door	24
Day 12	God of the Draughty Door	26
Day 13	God of the Donation Bin Door	28
Day 14	God of the Closed Church Door	30
Day 15	God of the Open Church Door	32
Day 16	God of the Workshop Door	34
Day 17	God of the Oven Door	36
Day 18	God of the Delivery Door	38
Day 19	God of the Laundry Door	40
Day 20	God of the Vending Machine Door	42
Day 21	God of the Cat Door	44
Day 22	God of the Passenger Door	46
Day 23	God of the Pharmacy Door	48
Day 24	God of the Glove Box Door	50
Day 25	God of the Bike Cage Door	52
Day 26	God of the Replacement Door	54
Day 27	God of the Hospital Door	56
Day 28	God of the Door to the Roof	58

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS CARDS

Day 1 The Birthday Card of Christmas Day..... 62

Day 2 The Credit Card of the Second Day of Christmas, Boxing Day 64

Day 3 The Colour Card of the Third Day of Christmas..... 66

Day 4 The Index Card of the Fourth Day of Christmas 68

Day 5 The Gift Card of the Fifth Day of Christmas 70

Day 6 The Postcard of the Sixth Day of Christmas..... 72

Day 7 The Thank You Card of the Seventh Day of Christmas,
New Year’s Eve 74

Day 8 The Library Card of the Eight Day of Christmas,
New Year’s Day 76

Day 9 The Health Care Card of the Ninth Day of Christmas 78

Day 10 The Menu Card of the Tenth Day of Christmas..... 80

Day 11 The Business Card of the Eleventh Day of Christmas 82

Day 12 The Travel Card for the Following Sunday,
The Feast of the Epiphany 84



Advent calendars are more popular than ever. You see them everywhere, mostly made from cardboard. Each day, you open a little door and find a treat inside. Usually it is made of chocolate. Sometimes it will have already melted. There is always tomorrow to bring better luck.

Perhaps these calendars are not quite in keeping with the true spirit of Advent, which is more about waiting and less about a daily dose of sugar. Advent is the original adventure, a journey that encourages us to look a bit further afield.

They say that if you can't beat them, join them. So here is an Advent calendar with a twist. The doors are all different, part of the world around us. Each door opens onto a simple experience and asks us to recognise all the different openings God finds to come into our lives. God is a great adventurer. God is always looking out for a new place to find us.

There are plenty of doors in scripture but, oddly enough, many of them seem to be closed. In the Gospels, we read advice about closing the door when we pray, stories about banquet doors being shut, an account of people who can't get their sick friend through a blocked door, a parable about a householder with locked doors and exhortations to make known what we hear behind closed doors.

In Luke, Jesus asks us to enter through a narrow door. In two of the resurrection stories in Luke's Gospel, the disciples are cowering behind closed doors.

Of course, none of these stories think that the doors should remain locked and bolted. They show us creative ways to get them open.

Faith is always a foot in the door, stopping us from getting closed in on ourselves. It is a key to the safe in which we can be tempted to keep our hearts, fearing they might get hurt yet again.

Please enjoy these doors and find a few minutes for the Lord who stands and knocks, patiently. Jesus says to those he advises to keep ringing his doorbell 'What parent, when a child asks for bread, will give them a stone?'

Please also enjoy the twelve cards of Christmas. The Lord finds a way into our wallets, purses, bags, letter-boxes and drawers. Amid all the hassles that can come with the end of one year and beginning of another, remember that God has seen more years than the rest of us combined. In the enormous expanse of the universe, God knows the beauty of small gestures. In the vast ocean of time, God can touch us in a moment.

Michael McGirr

28 DAYS OF
ADVENT

1

DAY 1 OF ADVENT

Loving God, we step out into the world this day

As we do every day.

Sometimes it is easy to leave the comfort of home, sometimes it isn't,
but mostly we rush out on autopilot because we are running late.

Beyond this door there are many things we can't control,
situations we can't predict and events whose pace frustrates us.

Give us the peace of heart and strength of purpose

That allow us to step out and find our home with you

Wherever your grace leads us today.

Help us this day to be the answer to somebody else's prayer.

Amen.

*From today's Psalm, Ps 122: 'I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord!''*



GOD OF THE FRONT DOOR

2

DAY 2 OF ADVENT

God of wisdom, thank you for the gift of your word.

For the many ways your word reaches us,

sometimes through letters.

Most of the mail these days is about business

But occasionally somebody still takes time to write.

Many of us have special letters from people we love,

even from people who have died.

We treasure their handwriting because it is theirs alone.

May we reach out to those who need your care.

And may we ponder in scripture

The writings of human beings who were inspired by you

To find words to share your truth.

Envelop us in your story.

Amen.

*From today's Psalm, PS 122: 'Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.'*



GOD OF THE POST OFFICE BOX DOOR