

## Welcome to our series of Advent Encounters

Each session will start with a short introduction and a passage of scripture, followed by some background information – what we know from scripture, historical records and Jewish and Christian tradition – about the characters involved in the encounter and then an imagining of their thoughts.

There will be some questions for reflection and points to ponder as we go through each session, all with the aim of encouraging us to look beyond the succinct and familiar texts of the gospel narratives and hear what God might be saying to each of us – and through us to the world – this season in 2020.

### Music

Do incorporate some Advent music into your sessions, whether you are wading through by yourself or Zooming with someone else or in a 'bubble'. Music can transport us to realms beyond our immediate circumstances, let alone reach the parts words don't reach! And perhaps you might even explore different music this year. If your preferred style is Gregorian Chant or Morten Lauridsen's *Magnum Mysterium*, (real goosebumps down the spine stuff) try Matt Redman 'His Name Shall Be' (YouTube)... or vice versa!

There is a great list here –

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/111-great-songs-advent/>

a mixture of traditional hymns and music (including Morten Lauridsen!) and more contemporary worship songs. **Warning!** This list combines Advent and Christmas music, so keep to Advent !

And for a different take on something familiar try something like <https://youtu.be/iO7ySn-Swwc>

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