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This Advent season will be different from all the others we've experienced. Those familiar Advent themes of longing for God and waiting in hope take on a special meaning for us in the midst of the storm that surrounds us. As always, God is

perhaps giving us a special opportunity this year to grow deeper in hope and stronger in the embrace of God's love.

As St. Paul says, we've each been given a gift to share with the people of God. And each gift is important to the building up of the body of Christ. So, I offer you the gift of these Advent reflections as a way of inviting you to practice hope during this time when hope is being challenged. There's one prayer reflection of each week of Advent, and a final one for Christmas. Let us together enter this season and wait in hope for how our God might reveal the length and breath, the height and depth of divine love for us.

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Come weal, come woe

God often comes to us in ways and at times we least expect. It's part of God's mischief to keep us on our toes. If we would ever fully embrace the meaning of the incarnation of God in this world, it could change everything. We would see the world with new eyes and understand that every moment is pregnant with God's presence. Each Christmas provides us with another opportunity to see with new eyes that the light of Christ shines even in the darkest of times.

This story appears in the **Advent Reflections with Dan Schutte** feature series. [View the full series.](#)