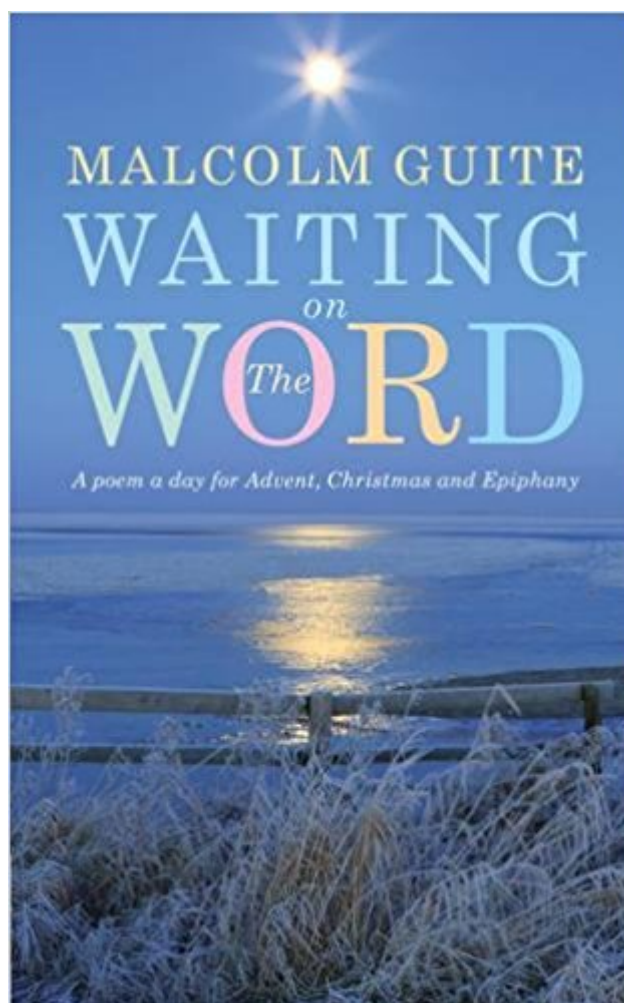


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# Waiting On The Word: A Poem A Day For Advent, Christmas And Epiphany



## Synopsis

Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation in which the waiting itself is strangely rich and fulfilling. Poetry can help us fathom the depths of Advent's many paradoxes: dark and light, emptiness and fulfilment, ancient and ever new. For every day from Advent Sunday to Christmas Day and beyond, the bestselling poet Malcolm Guite chooses a favourite poem from across the Christian spiritual and English literary traditions and offers incisive seasonal reflections on it. In the spirit of the season, he blends the familiar and the new, ranging from spiritual classics such as Edmund Spenser, John Donne, George Herbert and Christina Rossetti, to contemporary voices Luci Shaw and Scott Cairns. His own acclaimed sequence of sonnets for the great Advent antiphons are also included.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Malcolm Guite is Chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge. A performance poet and singer/songwriter, he lectures widely on poetry and theology in Britain and the US and has a large following on his website.

Even though the spell of Christmastime starts earlier and earlier each year, the meaning of Christmas gets swallowed up in sale prices and the noise of Black Friday Specials. This little book has the power to change all that. A poem a day and a bit of commentary: a gentle, grounding experience to start each day of December, a companion that changes the holiday season from one

of hurry to one of hope. Simple? yes. Powerful? utterly. Redemptive? absolutely. This book is brilliant.

This is an excellent collection of poetry drawing on some of the greatest poets of old and new voices from more recent times. While the poems themselves require reflection and prayer, I was personally edified by Guite's devotion-like reflections on each work, which avoids the trivial and instead illuminates the ways in which stanzas and lines contribute to our experience of God's grace in the seasons of Advent, Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany. Using this collection for spiritual reading is a good way to digest the poems and deepen your knowledge of poetry and Christ! Highly Recommended!

Malcolm Guite's Advent poetry anthology contains both well-known and lesser known poems and poets. The theological, spiritual and faith-centered insights he shares about each poem are amazing and as moving and instructive as the poems themselves. This book truly led me into a worshipful waiting during the season of Advent.

Both an enlightening and endearing book, Malcolm's selection, observation, analysis and connection with and about every poem is nothing short of marvelous. His deep insight and spiritual wisdom created in me a new appreciation for each day of Advent and a deeper love for Jesus, Immanuel, the Light of the World!

A brilliant anthology of poems for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The editor offers commentary with each poem. The commentary is insightful, and draws in a wide scope of English poetry as well as reflections on the Incarnation.

This is my Advent meditation this year. It is intelligent without being condescending, spiritual without being fey. I intend to keep this as part of our seasonal library.

This is a genius idea of a poem for every day of Advent and Christmas, with Guite's own commentary. The range of poems is good (Christina Rossetti, Edmund Spenser, John Keats, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Luci Shaw), and includes a few of his beautiful sonnets. The commentary is as much literary analysis as it is theological reflection, and what I most love about Guite's commentary is the sense of excitement about poetry coupled

with an encouragement to marvel in God more. It is a wonderful companion for Advent for anyone who loves poetry and theology. Highly recommended.

This volume of poems along with Malcolm Guite's penetrating commentary provides a rich combination of thought and words to turn our waiting hearts toward the coming Messiah. I especially appreciate Guite's inclusion of the works of other poets, such as Pitter and Shaw, along with his own engaging poetry, a generous act of reverence for how other writers experience Christ. I also like his inclusion of poems and commentary for Epiphany, the follow-through needed in a world that makes much of the waiting and the giving, but not so much of the acting on the heart changes which result from an authentic encounter with Christ.

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