

Foreword by The Most. Rev. Winston Halapua, Archbishop of Polynesia

Advent Calls seeks to address the way we overlook the season of Advent in the rush toward the great feast of Christmas.

As I write this foreword in June, I am aware of some advertisements for Christmas that are already being published. We are encouraged to leap forward and contemplate Christmas preparation even in the middle of the year. Such advertisements do not suggest that the journey towards a Christmas has significance.

In *Advent Calls*, we are beckoned to embrace the season of Advent, to respond to its resonant messages and so prepare for Christmas with seriousness and awakening joy. *Advent Calls* enables us to enter into the Advent season but also brings us through Christmastide with reflections and prayers for the twelve days of Christmas.

Central to the heart of the Gospel is the revelation of God's immense love in Jesus – God with us. David Guthrie has woven together collects, lectionary readings, striking photography and succinct reflections to assist us to keep the great tradition of Advent so that we, in our time and place, may be open to the vibrant and ever new message of the love of God coming in Jesus.

I am reminded of the Tongan word *Halani* used by Queen Salote of Tonga in her poetry. *Halani* speaks of the first light, the radiance which precedes the dawn. David Guthrie writes, "Advent is like that time before sunrise when light illuminates the landscape ..." Dawn is a precious time when we may discover new light and new possibilities opening for us.

I commend this book by David Guthrie and am aware that what he shares will have been fashioned in his own deep reflections of the biblical text and his own profound experiences in ministry and life.

The lectionary readings are mostly from Isaiah. Such readings and the reflections on the readings do not encourage a narrow piety but rather an openness to the light of Christ which shines for all people everywhere.

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