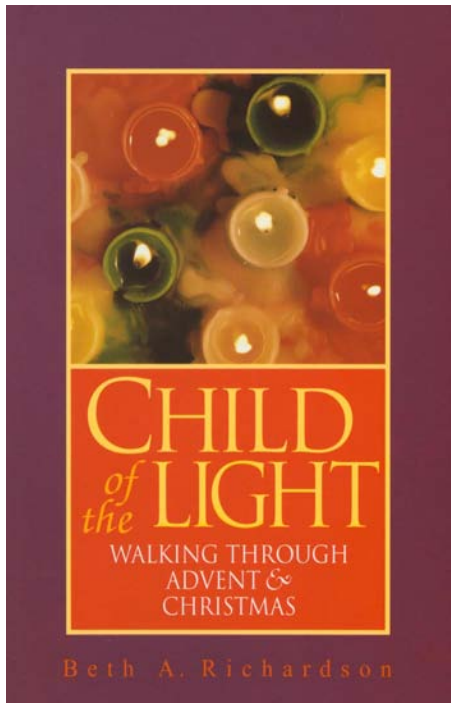


Now Available!



What Readers Are Saying ...

“We people who wait in darkness yearn for light. In a time of great hostility, Advent is a rumor that reconciliation is possible. In a world filled with great violence, Advent is a pilgrimage toward God’s promise of peace. *Child of the Light* is a guidebook for that journey. I cannot imagine a better companion with whom to walk than Beth Richardson. Beth walks — and writes — as a child of the light, and we fellow pilgrims are fortunate to be invited along.”

— *Michael E. Williams*, United Methodist pastor
General Editor, *The Storyteller’s Companion to the Bible* series

Child of the Light
Walking Through Advent & Christmas

By Beth A. Richardson

Beth Richardson invites you to experience the weeks before Christmas differently this year: “We all need this time of Advent to slow us down, to open our ears to God’s quiet voice, to guide us through the chaos of the consumerist culture that Christmas has become.”

Child of the Light provides tools to help you find your quiet center. Dedicate ten minutes a day for time with God. As you enter into these readings and reflections inspired by the season’s carols and hymns, your spirit will be lifted. The readings extend past Christmas to Epiphany, January 6, encouraging you to live into the joy of Christmas beyond seasonal celebrations. A small-group guide is included.

About the Author:

Beth A. Richardson is Director of Electronic Publishing, Upper Room Ministries, and a deacon in full connection in the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church.

About the Book:

Paperback, \$12.00, ISBN: 0-8358-9816-4
Available from Upper Room Books or your local bookstore
1-800-972-0433
<http://www.upperroom.org/bookstore/>

Child of the Light
An Advent book for Choirs and Other Musical People

“Couldn’t God have chosen a *busier* time of year for Christ to be born?!”
- J.S. Bach

We can almost hear the choristers grumbling: “Not Advent again.” “If I have to hear those tenors (or sopranos) slaughter ‘O, Holy Night’ one more time ...” “I’ve got so much to do. I can hardly bear the thought of extra rehearsals before the Hanging of the Greens.”

Advent and music — they were made for each other. Christ’s followers are gifted year after year by beloved music that feeds our spirits and nurtures our souls. But how do those gifting others with music get their souls nurtured? By the music, for sure. By the love and fellowship of their choir. By individual prayer and spiritual discipline. And, perhaps, also by a resource like *Child of the Light: Walking through Advent and Christmas*.

Child of the Light is an Advent meditation book that can be used either individually or in small groups. Each week’s daily readings are based on a different Advent hymn. The book invites the reader to take a few moments each day to find his or her quiet center, to prepare one’s heart for the coming of the Christ child. The Advent hymns included are: “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus,” “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light.” “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” and “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming.” The daily readings continue through the twelve days of Christmas, celebrating a different Christmas carol each day.

Suggestions for Use:

Child of the Light can be used with choirs during Advent to assist choir members in finding their quiet center through the chaotic weeks prior to Christmas.

1. Invite choir members to join together in the individual discipline of reading *Child of the Light*.
2. Be sure that each member of the choir has a copy of the book prior to the first Sunday of Advent. (November 27, 2005)
3. Invite choir members to make a covenant to read each day’s meditation in the book.
4. Offer the opportunity for members to sign up as prayer partners. Have prayer partners check in with each other during the week and offer support during challenging times.
5. When the choir meets each week, pray together the Sunday meditation for that week. This “Song-Prayer” presents lines of that week’s Advent hymn, a short prayer, and then a time for silence. Sing through the song together and then move into the “Song-Prayer.” Close this time with silent or communal prayer.
6. Consider having a special choir gathering in the days after Christmas to celebrate together. Sing favorite Christmas carols and share any insights and stories from persons’ experience of the “corporate individual study.”

Share your suggestions, insights and stories with Beth A. Richardson, author of *Child of the Light*. E-mail: BethARichardson@gmail.com.