

# Hope for the Holidays: An Advent Calendar to Support Immigrants and Refugees

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>27</b> Look up statistics about immigrants and refugees in your community and consider who is your neighbor and what resources they have access to when they arrive.	<b>28</b> Be accountable: Tell someone in your life that you are doing this or post it to your social media page.	<b>29</b> On Giving Tuesday research groups that are doing refugee resettlement or providing services to immigrants and donate (recurring donation if possible).	<b>30</b> Look up your <a href="#">state and federal legislators</a> ; write down their names, parties, and phone numbers. Put the list somewhere accessible.	<b>1</b> Be honest with yourself about macroaggressions you have enacted in the past and biases you may still have. Seek to understand where they come from.	<b>2</b> Learn about how Christmas is celebrated in other countries. For example, consider highlighting the tradition of the Magi (Día de los Reyes in Latin America) in your congregation this year.	<b>3</b> Write <a href="#">Christmas cards</a> to people currently being held in immigration detention. They are away from their homes and families and will <a href="#">appreciate receiving</a> words of encouragement.
<b>4</b> Watch “Who is Dayani Cristal?”, “Food Chains” or another documentary about immigration on Netflix.	<b>5</b> Research where your <a href="#">legislators stand on immigration issues</a> such as DACA, sanctuary cities, and refugee resettlement. Create a call to action with a specific request.	<b>6</b> Call your local refugee resettlement agency and ask about their needs. If they need nothing, ask about organizing a welcome dinner at your congregation.	<b>7</b> If you plan to give Christmas gifts, <a href="#">research fair trade vendors</a> that will help support workers in other countries.	<b>8</b> Call your legislators back and follow-up on your request. Repeat this as many times as you want.	<b>9</b> Identify an interfaith organizing group that is acting against Islamophobia and pursue a partnership with your congregation.	<b>10</b> Volunteer your time. Take time out of to volunteer anywhere in your community, most likely you will be helping immigrants in some form.
<b>11</b> Pray for immigrants and refugees. For resources go to the Council of Churches’ <a href="#">lectionary</a> .	<b>12</b> What are the options for a victim of a hate crime or harassment in your state? Post this <a href="#">information</a> in your workplace.	<b>13</b> If you anticipate racist jokes or comments from your family this holiday, practice what you will say.	<b>14</b> Research what <a href="#">safeguards</a> your local and state police have in place to prevent bias and brutality.	<b>15</b> Consider how your workplace structure might limit the voice or power of people of color. How can your privilege combat this?	<b>16</b> Listen or read the stories of immigrants and refugees. Try the <a href="#">New Roots Archive</a> from UNC.	<b>17</b> Talk with someone whose views vary widely from your own. Practice building understanding without minimizing oppression.
<b>18</b> Spend time listening to music from other countries. For inspiration from Latin America go <a href="#">here</a> and click on the 24/7 radio at the top right of the screen	<b>19</b> Educate yourself on the Water Protectors at Standing Rock (the original Americans); take one of their three recommended <a href="#">actions</a> .	<b>20</b> <a href="#">Thank a farmworker!</a> As we begin to prepare for Christmas meals, remember those who worked hard in the fields and poultry processing plants so we can share a meal together.	<b>21</b> Find one action that you skipped, and do it now. If you have done them all, repeat one.	<b>22</b> Feeling overwhelmed with the holidays and contemplating justice? Take some time for <a href="#">self-care</a> .	<b>23</b> Identify one point of hope or joy in the world that you are inspired to celebrate this Christmas. Write it down or share with others.	<b>24</b> Make time to read the Biblical story of Jesus’ birth and consider the ways in which Jesus was a refugee. After, take time to read two more stories about refugees and/or immigrants in the Bible.