

Introducing...

CLASSICAL CONFLUENCE

Con'flu-ence (kɒn'flōō-ěns ; 86), *n.* 1. A flowing together; a junction of streams, or the stream or body so formed; a place of meeting. 2. Act of flocking, or coming together; concourse: as . vast confluence of people.



Classical Confluence is TRCA's new gathering of resources and recommendations from our board members and administration. We'll share podcast recommendations, thought-provoking quotes, and great tools for your family. We'll have coffee and conversations around great books. There may even be a TRCA podcast in store! And you thought it was only a brewery.

HOME DAY PRAYER

How do you begin your home day? Here's an idea from one TRCA mom. Her family begins with a brief family meeting; scripture is read, catechism recited and they end reciting a prayer together. She chooses one prayer per quarter.

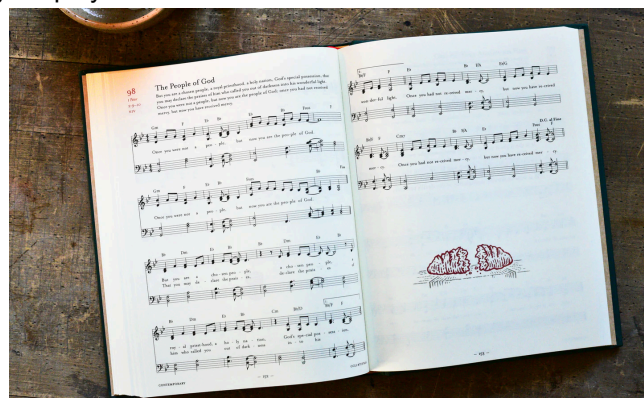
"Let me not be at my own disposal, but rejoice that I am under the care of one who is too wise to err, too kind to injure, too tender to crush. May I scandalize none by

my temper and conduct, but recommend and endear Christ to all around, bestow good on everyone as circumstances permit, and decline no opportunity of usefulness."

Adapted from *The Valley of Vision*. Source: Mandi Gerth.

WHAT WE'RE SINGING

When you join us for our Grammar School assembly, you'll hear some new songs. Last year, Randall Goodgame (aka Slugs and Bugs) released an entire hymnal of Scripture songs. Our Scripture memory for the Advent Season will be [Mary's Song](#). Search "Scripture Hymnal" on any music service and add their albums to your playlist.



A NEW CAROL

There Blooms a Rose in Bethlehem
by Neil NeGraide

There blooms a rose in Bethlehem
From tender stem hath sprung
Of Jesse's line this flower grows
As men of old have sung
Isaiah told us long ago
About this rose we'd find
In virgin arms we shall behold
The Savior of mankind

The glories of the heavens
Surrounded shepherds bright
The angels sang, a sign was shown
The Christ was born that night
What mystery they came upon
The sign the heralds laud
In manger slept the Holy One
In flesh, the Son of God

This flow'r in bloom, a scent so sweet
That greets us in the air
It has dispelled with hopefulness
The sting of death's despair
Foretold, this rose was born to die
But would not see decay
So those who place their faith in Him
Shall blossom from the grave

Music and words by Neil DeGraide. © 2014 Sovereign Grace Worship/ASCAP (adm. by Integrity Music). Sovereign Grace Music, a division of Sovereign Grace Churches. All rights reserved.

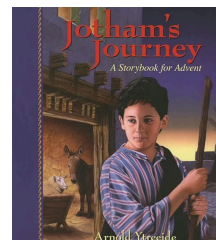
ADVENT TRADITION

One of the Advent traditions in the Dietrich house is reading one of Arnold Ytreeide [Advent novels](#). We have read all of them once and some of them twice! Here's the publisher's description of the first book.

"Jotham's Journey is divided into short chapters for each day of Advent, giving families the opportunity to create a seasonal tradition of storytelling in their home.

Ten-year-old Jotham's adventure takes him across Israel as he searches for his family. Though he faces thieves, robbers, and kidnappers, Jotham also encounters friendly wise men, shepherds, and innkeepers until at last he finds his way to his family—and to the Savior born in Bethlehem."

Know that they are often scary, and not every character will survive. The cliffhanger at the end of each chapter will keep any kid's attention, but I don't want parents to be caught off guard. These books are a wonderful addition to building great Advent traditions.



CLASSICAL EDUCATION'S MESSAGING CONUNDRUM

"Classical education is, after all, not a reward for the already enlightened, but an act of love toward the still-forming soul. Only when we remember the dignity and promise of those outside our circles will we be ready to fulfill our vocation as educators." - Erik Twist

Thanks to Liz Bomer sharing this insightful [article](#) that paves a way for messaging about Classical education.



FIVE FAVORITES: Advent Books with Mr. Dietrich

We're adding a new column Classical Confluence. We'd love to share some of our favorites. It may range from our favorite works of great literature to our favorite coffee!

1. Advent Stories by Arnold Ytreeide. As I mentioned above, The Advent Stories by Arnold Ytreeide are advent memories in our home. If I could do it over again, I would make reading more memorable with more food. One year, we had baklava as we finished from a local restaurant as we finished the story of the magi. When we read the stories again, I'll be sure to follow the recipe recommendations in the back.

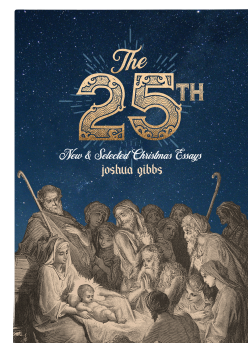
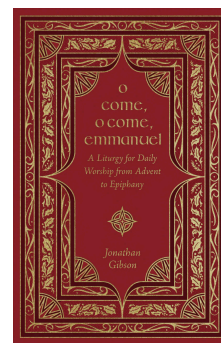
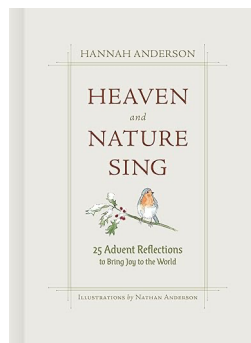
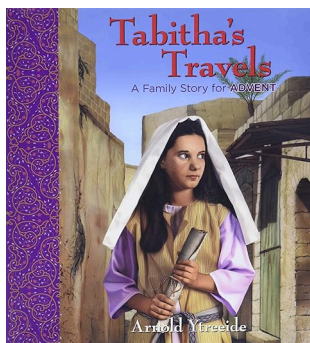
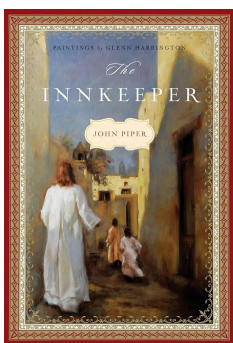
2. [Let Heaven and Nature Sing](#) by Hannah Anderson. I don't know how to say it other than this is perhaps the most beautifully written Advent devotional I've read. Anderson has a very Wendell Berry feel as she weaves together reflections on nature and theology.

3. [O Come, Come Emmanuel](#) by Jonathan Gibson. Gibson's personal liturgy books have become a regular part of my devotional life. Reading historic reflections, creeds, catechisms, and ancient prayers was peculiar at first, but the gospel arc daily worship slowly became ingrained into my thinking. This is a book you could come back to regularly.

4. [The 25th](#) by Joshua Gibbs. Though not an Advent devotional, I still really enjoy revisiting parts of this book at Christmas time. His chapter on Grinch dads and It's a Wonderful Life. Even when I don't agree with Gibbs, I still find his perspective just what I need to jar me out too much contemporary thought.

5. [The Innkeeper](#) by John Piper. John Piper's Christmas present to his church each year of ministry was a narrative poem. *The Innkeeper* is his imaginative story of Jesus going back to meet the Innkeeper who housed the Son of God. Better than reading it is following along while Piper reads it. Be warned: you'll need kleenex.

What are your favorites? I'd like to hear!



Photos from our Barn Dance

Do you have TRCA photos that you'd like to share? Please send them to [Mr. Dietrich!](#)



