

**AN ADVENT BOOK FOR 2019  
DISCUSSION GUIDE**



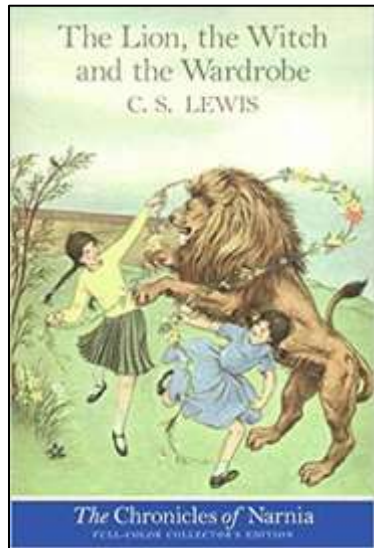
# Christ Church, Dartmouth *Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI*

## Parish Advent Book for 2019

*The Chronicles of Narnia The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* by  
C.S. Lewis

**W**hen the Pevensie children - Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy - step through a wardrobe door in the strange country house where they are staying, they find themselves in the land of Narnia. Frozen in eternal winter, Narnia is a land of snow and pine forests, and its creatures are enslaved by the terrible White Witch.

Tempted by the promise of endless Turkish Delight, Edmund becomes the White Witch's servant - and its up to his brother and sisters to release him from his enchantment and to rid Narnia of the witch. But just when it seems that all hope is lost, the Great Lion Aslan returns to help the children to save Narnia.



This classic story is certain to capture young imaginations, cleverly blending elements of fairy-tale and fantasy to create a wonderfully engaging adventure. Adult readers will be quick to spot the Christian symbolism woven through C S Lewis's story, which some critics have found problematic - but children will enjoy the magic of this spellbinding adventure in its own right.

*“Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight, At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more, when he bares his teeth, winter meets its death, And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again.” -The Lion, the Witch and Wardrobe.*

### **Advent Book Club Discussion dates:**

December 8, December 15, December 22

You can pick up a copy of this book at your local library or bookstore. If you have trouble getting a copy, please speak with parish office so we can assist you.



#### **ABOUT C. S. LEWIS (1898–1963)**

Clive Staples Lewis, known as Jack to his friends, was born in 1898. Lewis and his good friend J. R. R. Tolkien, the author of the Lord of the Rings trilogy, were part of the Inklings, an informal writers’ club that met at a local pub to discuss story ideas. Lewis’s fascination with fairy tales, myths and ancient legends, coupled with inspiration drawn from his childhood, led him to write *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, one of the best-loved

books of all time. Six further books followed to become the immensely popular *Chronicles of Narnia*. The final title in the series, *The Last Battle*, won the Carnegie Medal, one of the highest marks of excellence.

## SETTING THE SCENE



Four siblings journey from London during World War II to stay at an unusual home in the English countryside. Through a forgotten wardrobe filled with musty coats, the children find the enchanted land of Narnia. A secret world of magic and danger, Narnia is ruthlessly ruled by the White

Witch, who has cast the land into an eternal winter. Only the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, can break the Witch's evil spell. And a rumor is spreading: Aslan is on his way back. It is at this turbulent moment that the four children stumble through the wardrobe and find themselves center stage in the battle for control of Narnia.

## SUMMARY

Narnia. The land beyond the wardrobe, the secret country known only to Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy — the place where the adventure begins.

Lucy is the first to find the secret of the wardrobe in the professor's mysterious old house. At first, no one believes her when she tells of her adventure in the land of Narnia. But soon Edmund and then Peter and Susan discover the Magic and meet Aslan, the Great Lion, for themselves. In the blink of an eye, their lives are changes forever. (From the publisher.)



## Week One THE WARDROBE: Chapters 1-7

Questions for discussion:

1. *What are some themes we find in both Advent and The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe?*
2. The Wardrobe and the Lamppost:

The Wardrobe: “Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able.” (Luke 13:24)

*How can you relate this passage about Christ and Christians to Lucy passing through the wardrobe into Narnia?*

*What are some similarities?*

*What are some differences?*

*Have there been wardrobe doors in your life that have led to greater experiences of faith or of God? Think about a place, experience, book, or a time in your life that felt somehow set apart, spiritual, or even magical.*

The Lamppost: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but upon a lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before all, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

*How does the light of the world, Jesus shine in your life?*

*Have you experienced a time when you stumbled but the light of the Gospel allowed you to see more clearly?*

## **Closing Prayer**

God of Hope, as we walk through the door of the season of Advent, watching and waiting for your Son, journey with us. Give us a sense of wonder at your works and in your love for all creation. Give us courage to deepen our faith as we face the busy schedules and heightened expectations of the season. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



## **Week Two THE WITCH & FATHER CHRISTMAS: Chapters 8-13**

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;...to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. -1 Corinthians 12:4,7.*

Questions for discussion:

1. *Why might C.S. Lewis have chosen Turkish Delight as the candy Edmund asks for?*
2. *What do you think makes the White Witch so attractive to Edmund?*

3. *Do you think of Santa Claus as a Christian figure in any way? Why or why not?*
4. *How does Father Christmas prepare the way for Aslan and who is he like?*
5. *What is the deeper meaning of the gifts to the children?*

### **Closing Prayer:**

God of Joy, as we draw ever nearer to Christmas in this season of Advent, watching and waiting for your Son, journey with us. Help us prepare for his coming with solemnity and joy, taking seriously our own call to bring your gospel into the world. Give us courage to deepen our faith as we face the busy schedules and heightened expectations of the season. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Week Three: THE LION Chapters 14-17**

1. *Based on these scripture passages below, how is Jesus like a lion? Do you recognize Aslan in these passages as well?*
  - Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. – Revelation 5:5-6

- They will follow the Lord; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. -Hosea II:10
2. *In this novel, the saviour is a lion, a creature that isn't human. This is fun for a children's story, but it also offers an image of Christ markedly different from the Gospels. What does meeting Christ in the form of a lion emphasise about his identity?*
  3. In an interview published in The Telegraph in July 2012, former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams said, "There is a feeling (in Lewis's writing) that something really quite fierce has taken hold of people (when they turn to God). *What does this statement mean for you?*"

### Closing Prayer:

God of Love, as we draw near to Christmas, watching and waiting for your Son, journey with us. Grow in our hearts a sense of delight and holy fear at his coming, to change the world redeem us from sin. Give us courage to deepen our faith as we face the busy schedules and heightened expectations of the season. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Resources:

Heidi Haverkamp, *Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season* (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2015).

C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. (New York: Harper Collins, 1978).