

What gifts does the world need?



Give the gift of listening

Good listening is usually associated with attentiveness given for support and comfort when people talk about their troubles and misfortunes. Concentrated presence certainly does this by softening life's blows, but good listening also contributes to joy ... we provide added delight by our undivided attention, whether this be with a young child tugging at us to hear his playground story or an elder relating her prized memories. Deep listening is more than hearing with our ears, but taking in what is revealed in any given moment with our body, our being, our heart (Joyce Rupp: Return to the Root. 2021. 155).

Where
can you give the
gift of listening in this
Advent season?
How can listening make
it onto your Christmas
giving list?

Prayer to guide us through Advent

**Holy One, Essence of Kindness,
each day of this Advent Season
guide us to your love through
messages of hope,
easy smiles, opened doors,
unexpected generosity,
words of understanding,
forgiving hearts and other
signs of human kindness.
Help us to recognise
your dwelling amongst us**

(Joyce Rupp: Return to the Root.
2021. 225: adapted).

Approaching, speaking, listening, looking at, coming to know and understand one another, and to find common ground: all these things are summed up in the one word 'dialogue' ... unlike disagreement and conflict, persistent and courageous dialogue does not make headlines, but quietly helps the world to live much better than we imagine (Fratelli Tutti #198).