

Story Book Suggestions for Children

Compiled by Mark Burrows

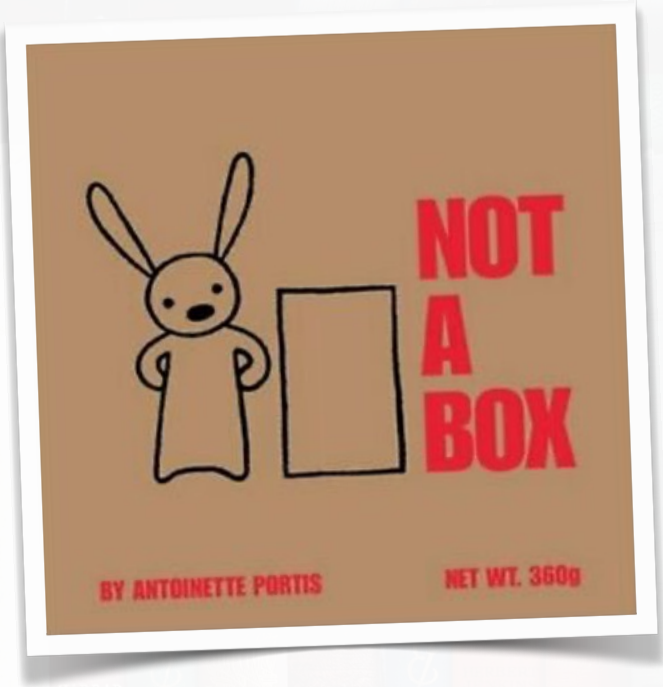
I don't need more stuff. No one in my family needs for stuff. None of my friends need more stuff. And yet, there is a powerful impulse to give something tangible to our loved ones. When I feel that impulse, I turn to books. Books are more than stuff. They are profound ideas, thoughtful words, inspiring pictures. I think I'll always want to find room for that.

Below are a few children's books that helped me connect with the theme as I worked on Children's Time for "The Inn." These books can certainly be given as gifts. One possible way to integrate these books at church could be to have an Advent book club to read aloud and explore some of the books below. This could be done:

- As part of Sunday school
- In the foyer 15-20 minutes before worship
- As part of Wednesday night or Sunday evening church activities
- As a brain-break during children's choir practice
- At home by families

Read aloud, and invite the children to offer their own thoughts and insights.

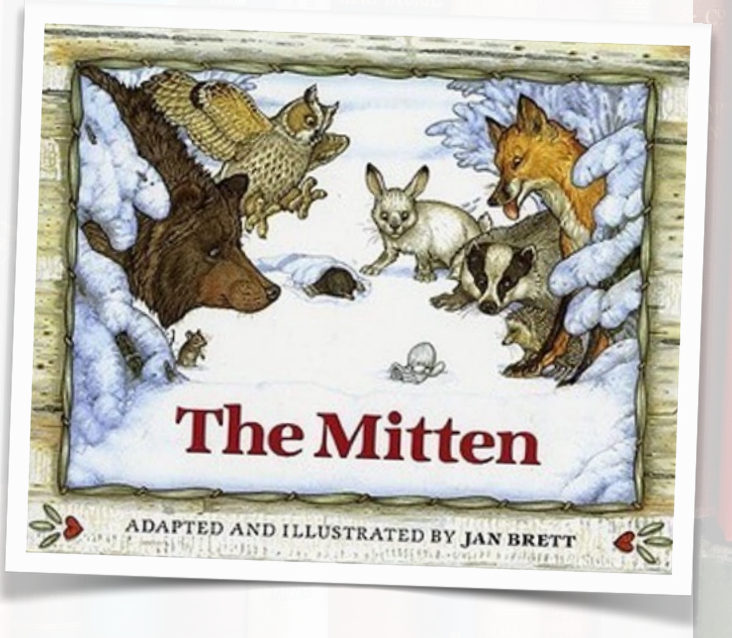
Advent 1 — Hope



***Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis**

This charming little book is a celebration of the creative spirit. With a little imagination, a box can be just about anything.

Advent 2 — Peace

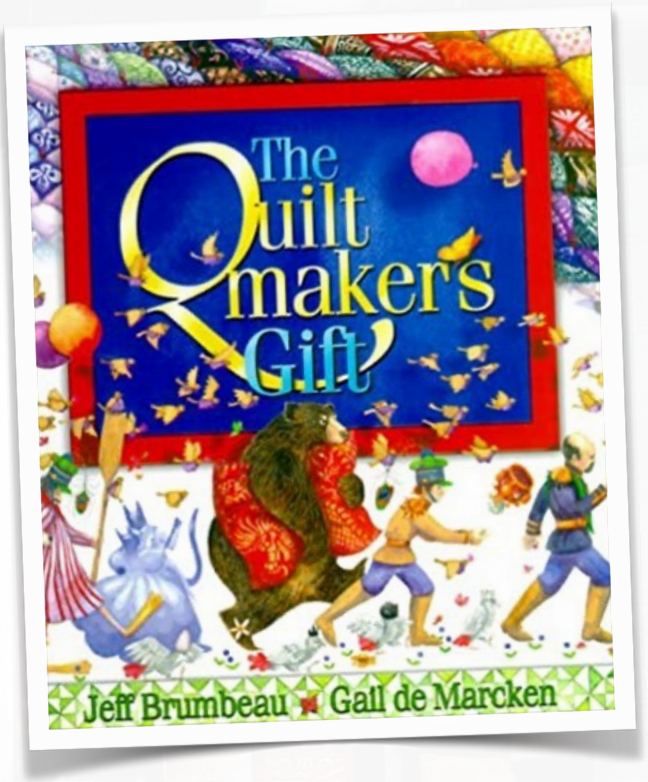


***The Mitten: A Ukranian Folktale* Adapted and Illustrated by Jan Brett**

In this classic tale, several animals find a warm place inside a mitten. Even when it seems crowded, there always seems to be room for more…almost always. A warm, endearing tale beautifully illustrated.

Advent 3 — Joy

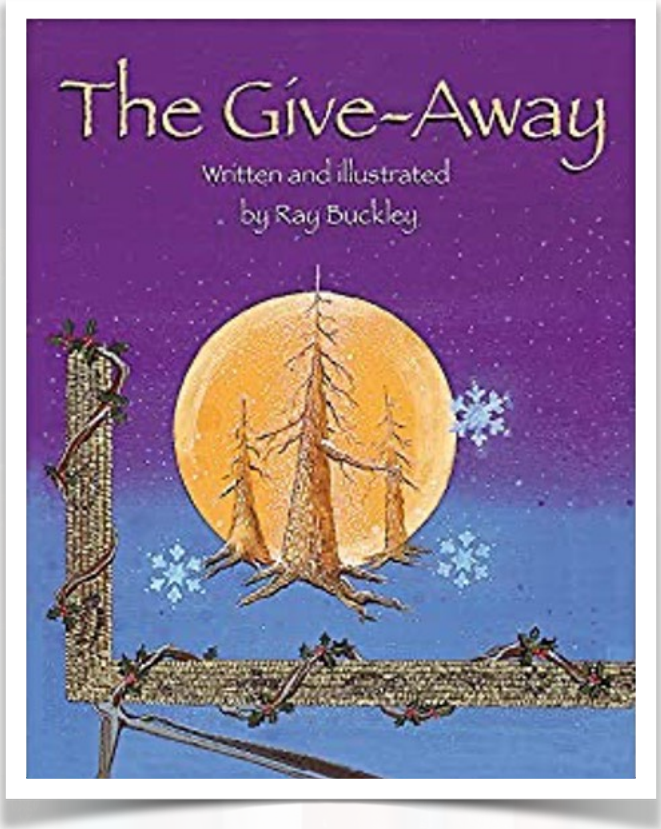
The Quiltmaker's Gift **by Jeff Brumbeau, Illustrated by Gail de Marcken**



The king has everything, but he isn't happy. He keeps wanting more. When he learns about a magical quiltmaker and her wonderful quilts, he wants one. But she won't make one for him until he makes gifts of all his other possessions. This is a wonderful story about knowing when you have enough, and about making room in life for what matters most.

Advent 4 — Love

The Give-Away, **Written and Illustrated by Ray Buckley**

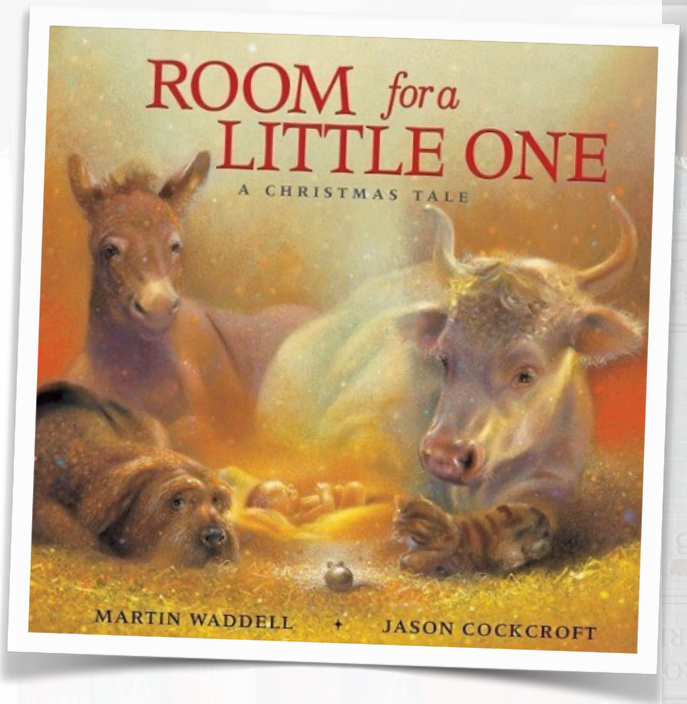


Ray Buckley is an author-illustrator of Lakota/Tlingit/Scots descent. This original story from Buckley shows the creatures of the forest as they come to terms with the fact that people – the "Two-leggeds" have lost a sense of who they are. They want more than they need and make others feel small so that they can feel big. Each wants to give away something of themselves to help the Two-leggeds find wholeness. And then the Creator appears. The ideas in this picture book are profound and will especially resonate with older children.

Christmas Eve

***Room for a Little One* by Martin Waddell, Illustrated by Jason Cockcroft**

This is a reimagining of the birth story from the animals' perspective. Each animal seeks a place to stay and rest. All are welcomed with the same invitation – "Come inside. There's always room for a little one here." Gorgeous illustrations.



The Sunday After Christmas

***If the World Were a Village* by David J. Smith, Illustrated by Shelagh Armstrong**

This is a nonfiction book that takes many of the overwhelming statistics about the people on our planet and imagines it all as a village of 100 people. This book does an astounding job of making abstract concepts more concrete, such as how many people have access to clean drinking water and how many people live with food insecurity. If the World Were a Village reminds us that there truly is enough for everyone…if we share.

