

# WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS

by Jon Secaur

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## *I have not desired the day of despair. (Jeremiah 17:16)*

So says the song from the musical, Mame. The title character, a cheerful, larger than life woman (think: Katie Baird) takes in her nephew, Peter, as the stock market crash of 1929 wipes out her fortune. Rather than wallow in her troubles, she says to “Haul out the holly / Put up the tree before my spirit falls again.” She knows that the joy of Christmas is the perfect antidote for what she is feeling.

Perhaps it’s with good reason that elections fall in early November, so that we can experience Thanksgiving shortly after, and Christmas, soon behind. This year, I am almost grateful that Christmas ads and music are creeping in so early. I don’t know about you, but I am feeling spiritually “a little leaner, [I’ve] grown a little colder / Grown a little sadder, grown a little older / And I need a little angel sitting on my shoulder / Need a little Christmas now.”

This year I’ll appreciate, more than ever, Advent’s re-tuning my soul to God’s rhythm and music. I’m able to separate the welcome presence of God’s wondrous action from the hype and schmaltz of commercial Christmas, but right now, I need some “tinsel on the evergreen bough” and some “snappy, happy ever after.” How about you?

**DEAR GOD,  
HELP ME TO FIND  
PEACE AND JOY YET  
AGAIN THIS ADVENT  
AND HOLY SEASON.**