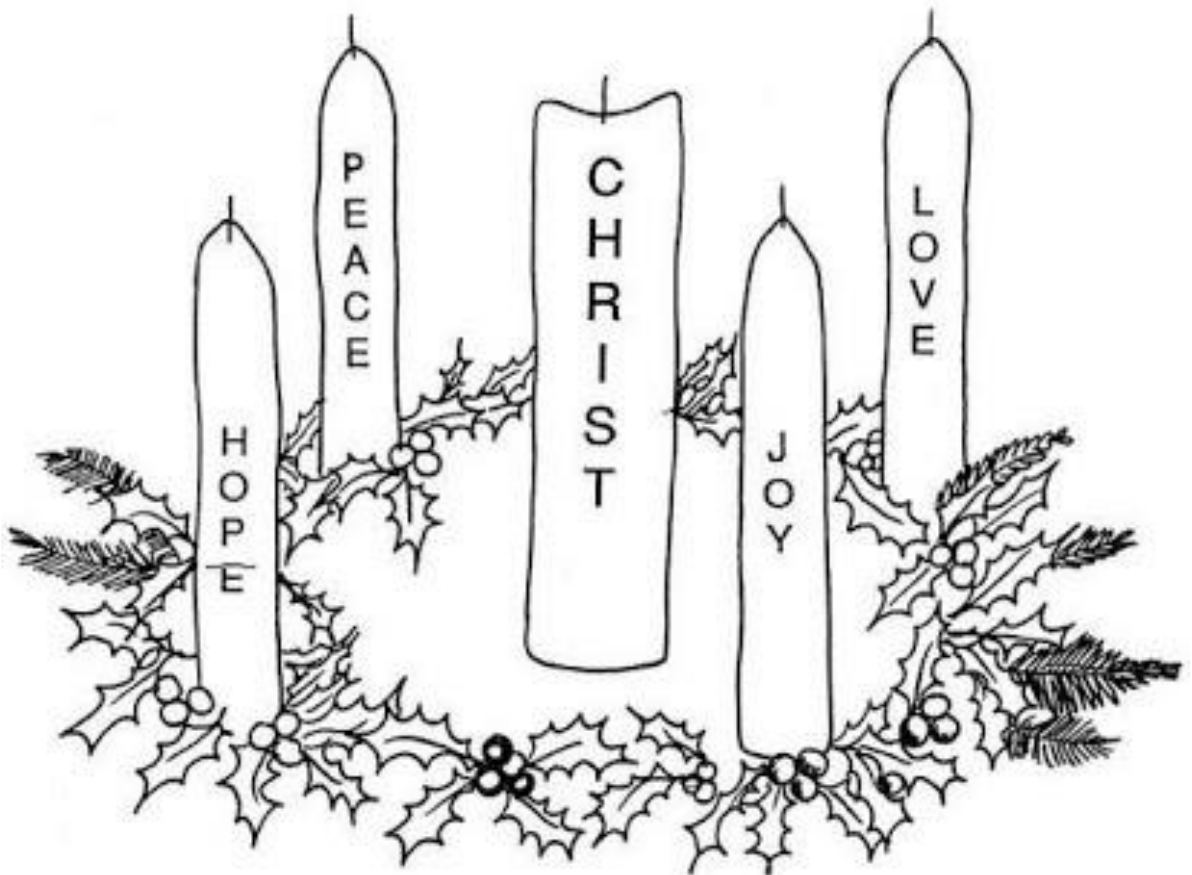


ADVENT

Family

Journey

Advent is a time of mystery. We need time to prepare ourselves and think about our own faith as we move towards Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus.



In this booklet are ideas to help you week by week
prepare for the birth of Christ.

Week 1	Hope
Week 2	Love
Week 3	Peace
Week 4	Joy
Christmas Day	Jesus
Epiphany	Gifts

Each week colour in one of the candles on the front page
and then light the candle.

There is a passage of Scripture, a hymn verse and a
prayer to help guide your thoughts.

Prayer

In the beginning was the Word;
And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
We wait for the coming of Christ, the light of the world
Come Lord Jesus.
Amen.

Week One

Hope

Remember the hope God gave to us through the rainbow.

“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.”

Luke 1:32-33



Hymn verse

Morning star, O cheering sight!
Ere thou came'st how dark earth's night!
Jesus mine,
In me shine;
Fill my heart with light divine.

Prayer

Living God, as I light my candle, may the flame of desire for justice and peace burn deep within me, releasing the transforming power of your Holy Spirit; and may your kingdom come. Amen.

Week Two

Love

See if you can find an image of an angel or an ornament in your house, as you think about the love Jesus shares with us.

An angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the baby in her is from the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 1:20



Hymn verse

Morning star, thy glory bright
Far excels the sun's clear light:
Jesus be
Constantly
More than thousand suns to me.

Prayer

Living God, as I light this candle, may the beauty of its flame call me to seek out beauty in all its forms; may this be a time for celebrating your promises, and for sharing the good news with urgency, passion and joy; and may your kingdom come. Amen.

Week Three

Peace

Jesus came to protect us like a good shepherd.

That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. Then the angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and they became very frightened.

Luke 2:8-9



Hymn verse

Thy glad beams, thou morning star,
Cheer the nations near and far;
Thee we own
Lord alone,
Man's great Saviour, God's dear Son.

Prayer

Living God, I light this candle in the name of Jesus, the light of the world: make straight our paths, enlighten our hearts and our minds, bless us on our Advent journey as we wait in hope; and may your kingdom come. Amen.

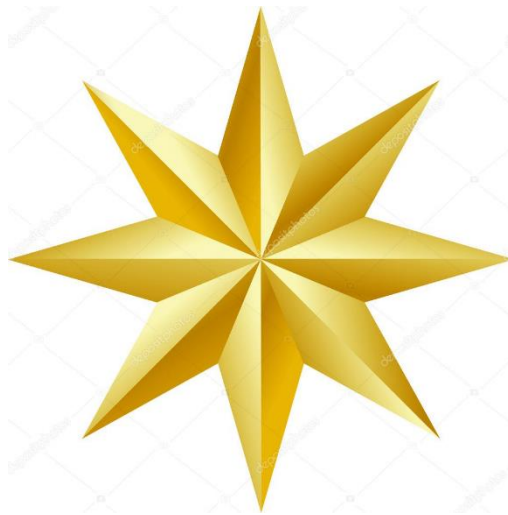
Week Four

Joy

Maybe you can see some stars this week? Watch the stars shining, enjoy their light.

Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem, the star that they had seen in the east went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy.

Matthew 2:8-10



Hymn verse

Morning star, my soul's true light,
Tarry not, dispel my night;
Jesus mine,
In me shine;
Fill my heart with light divine.

Prayer

Living God, I light my candle, and remember the scandal of the first Christmas, and pray that we will not try to 'tidy Christmas up' but celebrate it honestly and realistically. Amen.

Christmas Day

Look at the silhouette of the new family in the picture below. God shares a most precious gift with us.

A child has been born to us; God has given a son to us.
He will be responsible for leading the people.
His name will be Wonderful Counsellor, Powerful God,
Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



Hymn verse

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Prayer

Overnight, something has changed. We did not see it happen. We did not hear it. But something changed. Jesus is here. Jesus who came as a baby then grew to be a man. He has been here all through this season of Advent, even when we could not see him. Immanuel, God-who-is-with-us. The story has not finished, it has only just begun! Thank you for Christmas. Amen.

Epiphany

Maybe you had some presents at Christmas. Take time to think about the presents that were given to the baby Jesus.

They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their gifts and gave him treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

(Matthew 2:11)



Hymn verse

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

Prayer

The wise men brought strange gifts, I don't know if I have anything good enough to give you, but thank you that what I bring is fine with you. Amen.