

Second Sunday of Advent



December 6, 2020
10:30 AM

Join us for our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>
or <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>
Zoom Coffee Hour: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

December 6, 2020

Advent Intergenerational Zoom Events: Each Sunday of Advent we will gather on Zoom for a time of learning, singing, and sharing for all ages. Week 2, **TODAY at 4:00 PM.** Bring an angel to share. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82809432951>.

Advent Sale: Due to COVID-19, we will not be hosting our annual Advent Sale; however, if you are looking for fairtrade gifts, visit: serrv.org and equalexchange.coop. To give ELCA Hunger Good Gifts visit goodgifts.elca.org.

Coffee Sale: Are you in need of our Fairtrade coffee, teas, and chocolate? If so, contact Jane Bowman to arrange a pickup.

Pledge Update: Thus far we have received 58 pledges for a total of \$310,340 towards our goal of \$450,000. If you haven't yet submitted your pledge, please do so today.

Lutheran College Christmas Programs: Our Lutheran colleges have a long and venerable tradition of musical Christmas programs. This year during COVID-19, many of our Lutheran colleges are offering a virtual program. Access a listing [here](#) to help you observe this wonderful season.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Please give generously to the emergency fund sponsored by the Summit Interfaith Council to help Summit immigrant neighbors adversely affected by COVID-19. You may make your tax-deductible donation to the Relief Fund [here](#), by either check or PayPal. Checks should be made out to and mailed to Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.

Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Evening Prayer: Wednesdays, December 9 & 16 at 7:00 PM

Blue Christmas: December 23 at 7:00 PM Grieving, hurting, feeling blue? Join us for a special service of hope.

Christmas Eve Virtual Services: 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM on YouTube and Facebook

Christmas Eve In-Person Outdoor Service at 8:00 PM. Come to Bethlehem and see! Join us around the manger (in the Memorial Garden) as we hear the Christmas story and share communion.

Christmas Day Virtual Service: 10:30 AM on YouTube and Facebook



Prayer Before Worship

Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we await the Messiah's return, that all may see your reign of peace through your just and gracious rule. Amen.

*From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion,
Year B, Vol. 1*

PRELUDE Setting of *Freu dich sehr*

By Georg Böhm (1661–1733)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who was and is and it to come. **Amen.**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill my promise to my people. Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess our sin before God.

Loving and forgiving God, we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 264 Prepare the Royal Highway



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

HYMN We Light the Advent Candles

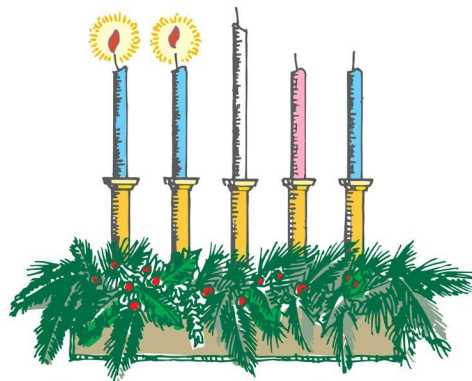
Verses 1 & 3



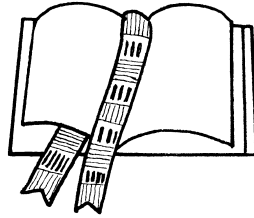
1 We light the Ad-vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night,
3 We light the sec - ond can - dle, and hear God's ho - ly Word,
to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light,
it tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord,
to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light.
it tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord!

Text: Gracia Grindal (1943-)
Tune: German folk tune

76 76 76
WIR HATTEN GEBAUET
<http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/WAR2003/175>



Second Sunday
OF ADVENT



FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:8–15a

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community
Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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GOSPEL Mark 1:1–8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
2 For the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God’s ho - ly reign.



To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

PEACE
BE TO
YOU.

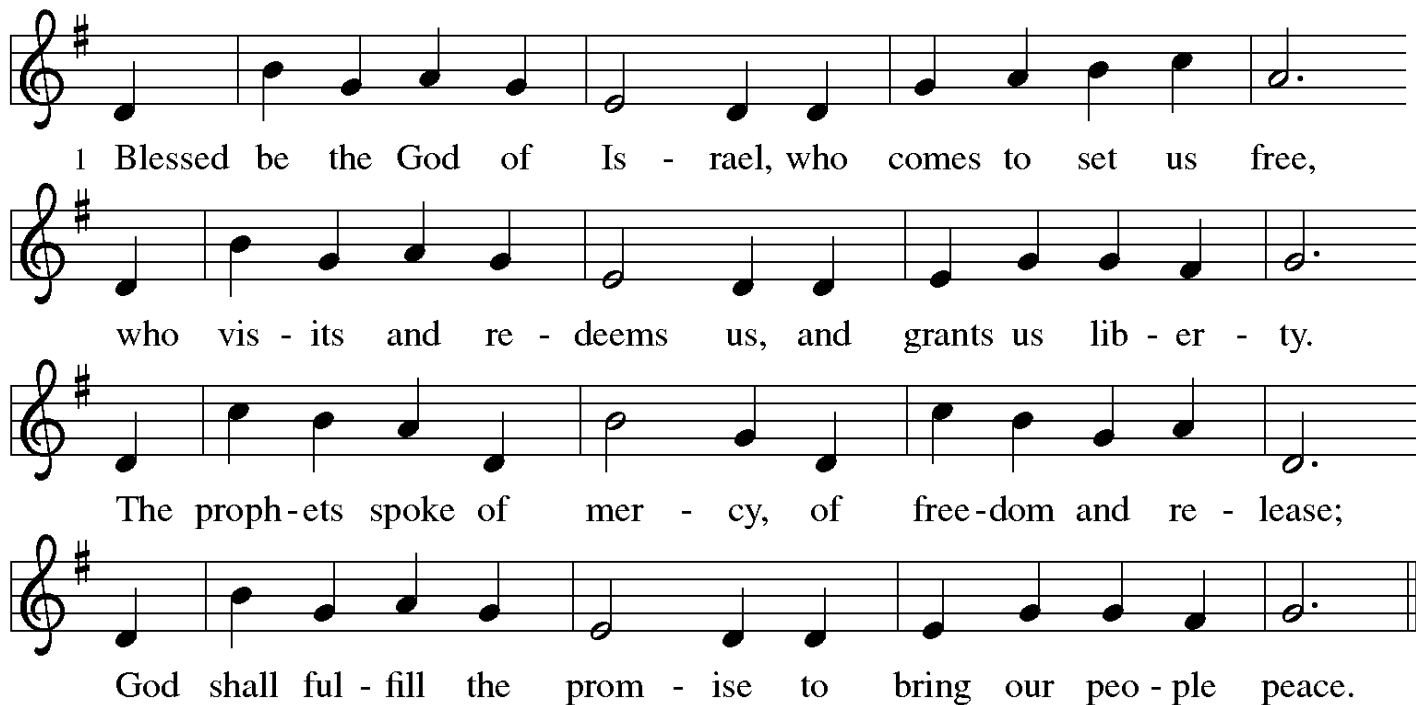
GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving. You may also contact the church office for more options.

OFFERING MUSIC Setting of *Haf trones lampa färdig* By Anne Krentz Organ (b. 1960)
Andrew Larsen, soprano sax

OFFERTORY ELW 552 Blessed Be the God of Israel

Verse 1



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996, based on Luke 1:68–79

Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1973 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever. **Amen.**

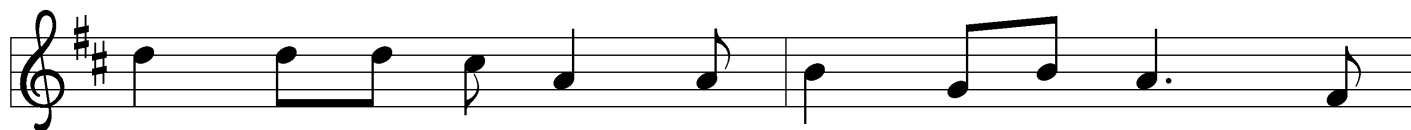
SENDING HYMN ELW 266 All Earth Is Hopeful



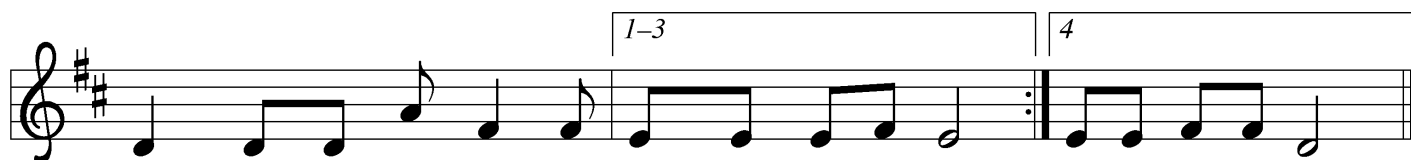
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Setting of *Bereden väg för Herran*

By Robert Hobby (b. 1962)

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>

Zoom Children's Time is on hiatus through January 2.

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on both our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

Hymns of Faith: Wednesdays at 10:30 AM. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88523165763>

Worship Live Stream at 10:30 AM on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit or our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ Worship bulletins are located: <https://www.stjohnssummit.org/bulletins>.

Giving Is Important. We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. Please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

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Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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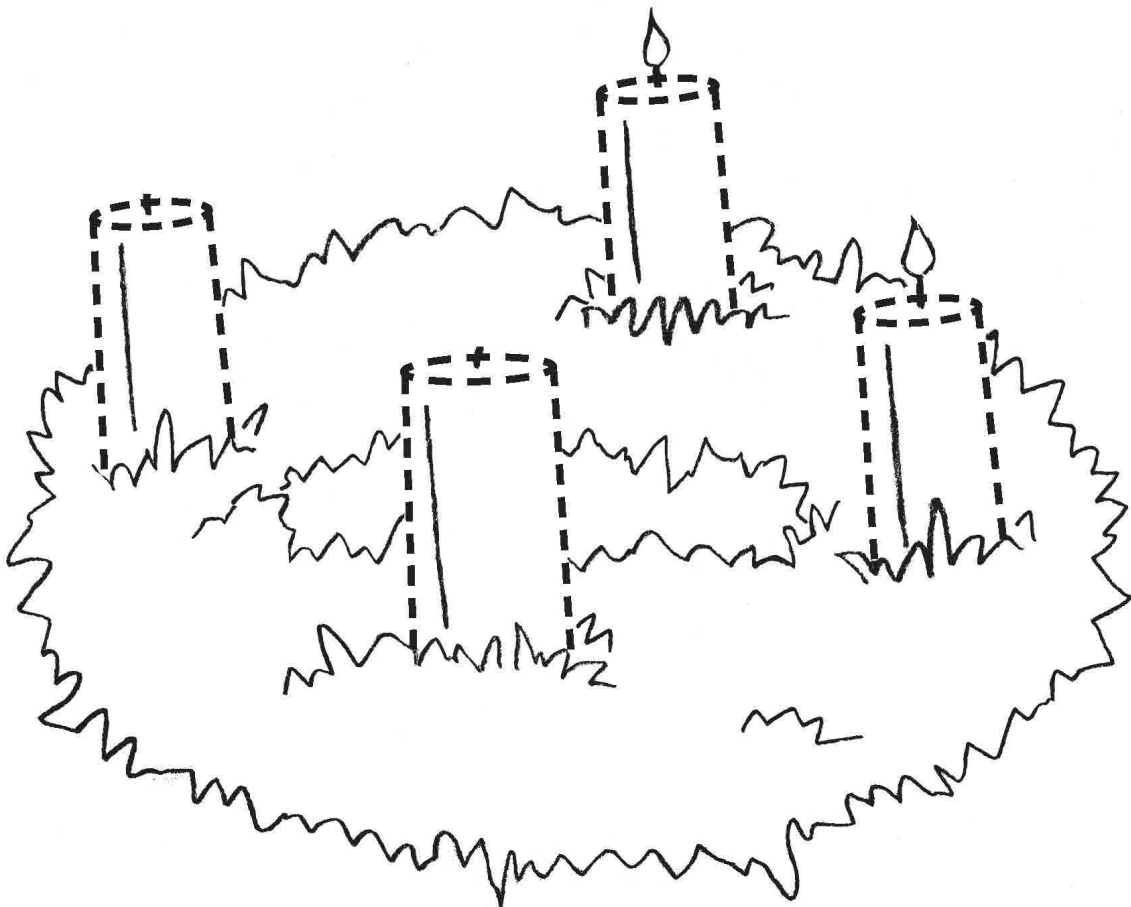


PRE-READER

Advent 2

- Today is the **2nd Sunday** in **Advent**.
- The color we use for Advent is **blue**.
- Blue is a color that means **hope**.

Trace the dotted lines to draw the Advent candles. Then color them blue.





The child would show them how to live in peace and love each other.

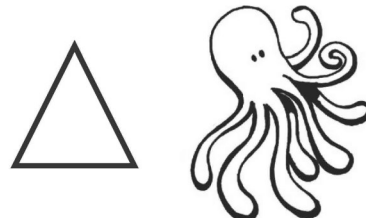
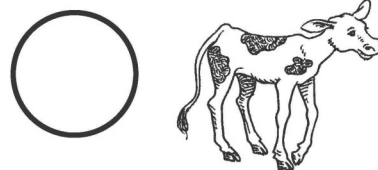
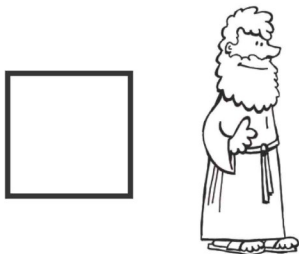
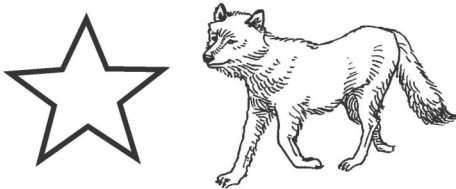
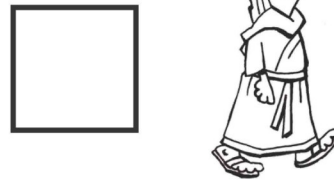
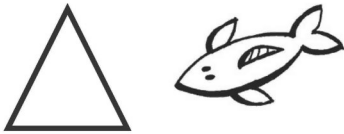
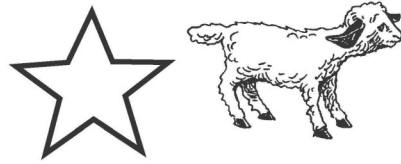


Isaiah tells us that a **child** will bring **peace**.
The child would bring peace to all **people**—and to **animals**, too!

During Advent we **hope** for **peace**.

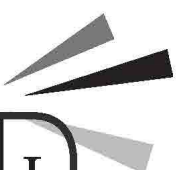


See who can live together in peace! Draw a line to connect each pair of matching shapes.



Advent is the first season in the church year.

Cross out the lower case letters to find some Advent words.



I	c	M	y	M	r	A	t	N	p	U	w	E	h	L
i	M	l	E	f	S	t	S	w	I	g	A	e	H	f
i	u	W	p	e	b	A	d	w	q	I	m	r	v	T
m	d	R	s	b	E	n	w	A	k	m	D	r	i	Y
s	n	A	t	j	W	r	m	A	n	d	K	a	i	E

Look around! Other people are getting ready too. **Can you find these people in worship?**

Someone wearing blue

Someone holding a baby

Someone with glasses

Someone who is smiling

Someone with white hair

Someone who is wearing a sweater

Someone who is reading the Bible

Everyone waits together!



READER

Advent 2

- Today is the **second Sunday** in Advent.
- The color we use during Advent is **blue**.



Code Blue

Figure out this code to find out what the color blue means.



G _ _ I, N _ _ P, O _ _ Q, D _ _ F

spells: _ _ _ _ _

What do you see in church today that is blue? Write or draw about it here.








G H I N O P Q, D E F spells H O P E

Use the symbols to fill in the blanks for this week's memory verses. Check in your Bible to see if you're right!




Memory Verse



The _____ shall live with the _____, the _____ shall lie _____ with the kid, the _____ and the _____ and the fatling together, and a _____ shall lead them. Isaiah 11:6

The  shall live with the  , the  shall lie ↓ with the  , the  and the  and the fatling together, and a little  shall lead them. Isaiah 11:6

For the _____ will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the _____ cover the sea. Isaiah 11:9b

For the  will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the  cover the sea. 

Isaiah 11:9b



Look It Up!


Isaiah tells us about a new branch in the family tree of Jesse. King David is a son of Jesse and Jesus is in King David's family. **Write down the names of the people you find in each verse. Then draw a branch connecting the Old and New Testament families.**



_____ 
Genesis 17:5



_____ 
Genesis 21:3

_____ 
Genesis 25:26



_____ 
1 Samuel 16:1

_____ 
1 Samuel 16:13



_____ 
Luke 1:27


_____ 
Luke 1:31

John the Baptist was born right about the same time as Jesus. You can read more about these cousins in Luke 1:1-6.



Did You Know?



Looking for John

Figure out the word that goes on each line. Use the letters from the circles to spell the word in the last sentence.

John told people to _____  _____.

He was trying to help people get  _____ for Jesus.

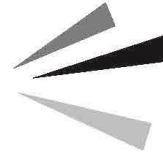
John the Baptist wore funny clothes made from _____  _____ and _____  _____ hair.

John ate funny food, too, like _____  _____ and _____  _____.

John the Baptist was a P       _____.

Sanctuary Search

During Advent, we decorate the sanctuary, or worship space, in different ways. There is usually an Advent wreath with candles. The cloth that covers the altar might be blue. People hang evergreen garlands and decorate trees. Each church decorates a little differently.



Can you spot six differences between these two pictures? Circle each difference you find!

