

## An Advent Prayer

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail. Amen

# Advent Family Prayer Walk



## USAWC Memorial Chapel 2021

Welcome to the Advent Family Prayer Walk. It is a time to stop and reflect and prepare our hearts and minds to welcome the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.

The stations can be done in any order except the Nativity should be the last station as you return to the fellowship hall.

Take time to read the scripture at each station and ponder the questions in the booklet. The activities are for every member of the family to complete.

While you are in the classrooms and the hallway, please maintain a prayerful spirit and keep side conversations for when you return to the fellowship hall. Feel free to read and discuss the scripture, prayers, and discussion questions as a family at each station.



**And the Word became flesh  
And made his dwelling among us,  
And we saw his glory,  
The glory as of the Father's only Son,  
Full of grace and truth.**

**John 1:14**

Congratulations! You have finished the Advent Prayer Walk. Continue to reflect on the coming of Jesus Christ in the next weeks as we prepare to celebrate that holy night when God became man and saved the world.

# The Nativity

## Fellowship Hall

Take a moment to view the different Nativity scenes. Try to put yourself into that night. Think about how each of the figures must have felt. The wonder and awe, probably some fear and uncertainty too.

Think about which Nativity character you identify most with at this point in your life: the expectant mom, the worried father, the curious shepherds, the travelling magi, the angels bringing good news, the animals wondering at the spectacle happening in their stable?

Choose a character, write your name on it and place it on the board as a way of symbolically entering into the mystery of this story for the rest of the Advent season.

Pray the prayer: Christ Born in a Stable

**Christ born in a stable is born in me  
Christ accepted by shepherds accepts me  
Christ receiving the wise men receives me  
Christ revealed to the nations be revealed in me  
Christ dwelling in Nazareth You dwell in me  
Christ, grant that people may look at me  
and see Your Presence. Amen**

# ADVENT

The word 'Advent' is from the Latin '*Adventus*,' which means 'coming.' Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year (in the Western churches), and encompasses the span of time from the fourth Sunday before Christmas, until the Nativity of Our Lord is celebrated. The first Sunday of Advent will always fall somewhere between November 27<sup>th</sup> at the earliest and December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the latest. The liturgical color for this season is purple (Usually a deep purple as opposed to the lighter, red-violet shade of purple associated with Lent).

Like Lent, Advent is a preparatory season. It has significance because it is a season of looking forward and waiting for something greater; both for the annual celebration of the event of Christ's birth, and for the time when Christ will come again.

So today, on this third Sunday of Advent, we take a little extra time to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ at His birth and at the end of time when Christ will come again.



Hope, Love, Joy, Peace

Room 27

These four words are often used for the candles on an Advent wreath. As we light a new candle each week, we are reminded that it is a time of preparation.

Hope – Romans 15:12-13 Reminds us Jesus is coming

Faith – Luke 3:4-6 Reminds us to prepare the way of the Lord

Joy – Luke 2:10 Reminds us of the joy at the coming birth of Jesus

Peace – Luke 2:14 Reminds us of God's glory and promise of peace

What are you most in need of in your life right now? Light a candle and say a prayer for God to give you what you need.

Which of these do you feel called by God to share with others in their lives right now? Light a candle and say a prayer that you will recognize the opportunity to bring hope, love, joy and peace to those you encounter this holiday season.



Hallway Bulletin Board

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10

So much joy greeted the arrival of the long awaited Savior. Joy is God's gift to us, a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Much like love, joy is a choice we make to live our lives filled with the joy of knowing Jesus Christ is our Savior. It is that joy which carries us through the good and bad times.

Joy is so much more than happiness, it is deeper and fills our soul. It is rooted in Scripture and God's love for us. It comes from God who gives us all good things.

What brings you joy?

Take a marker and add your joy to our bulletin board!

## Names of Jesus

### Room 28

By praying with the names of Jesus, we learn more about Him and how he relates to our lives. Look at the different names and choose a few to look up the corresponding scripture verses. What names of Jesus can help you come to know Him more closely?

Spell out your favorite name for Jesus using the letter tiles and add it to our crosswords.

PRINCE  
of PEACE  
*Light of  
the World*  
**King of  
KINGS**  
*Holy One*  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
*Wonderful  
Counselor*  
Emmanuel  
*The Way the  
Truth & Life*  
**Alpha &  
Omega**  
*Lamb of God*  
*Messiah*  
Bread of Life  
Savior  
JEHOVAH  
*Strong Tower*  
**Lord of  
LORDS**

## Shepherd

### Room 29

Jesus often used the shepherd to describe how God will always look after us and even referred to himself as the Good Shepherd. Read the story of the Lost Sheep found in the Gospel of Luke chapter 15 verses 1-7.

As we prepare again for the birth of the shepherd who comes to lead us closer to God, consider who the shepherds are in your life. Who has helped you to know and experience God's love and compassion? Write their names on a our board. Say a prayer of thanks for these people who have helped you.



The  
**LORD**  
is my shepherd,  
I shall not want.  
Psalm 23:1

Think about who God is calling you to shepherd. How can you show that person God's love and compassion?



*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is God's will—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.*

*Romans 12:2*

## Naming Distractions

Room 30

There are so many distractions around us today that keep us from focusing on our faith. Read the parable of the sower in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 8 verses 4 to 8 and 14 to 15.

Distractions are like the weeds and thorns in the parable. In our life they keep us from growing closer to God and from being the person He meant us to be.

What are the thorns and weeds in your life that keep you from growing in rich soil and bearing fruit?

Use the slips of paper provided and list the distractions that keep you from growing closer to God. Place the slip into the box as a way of reducing the distractions in your life.

Pray this prayer, asking God to limit the distractions that grow between His love and you.

**Son of God,  
You are the light of the world.  
Shine your light on all my choices this day.  
Create in me the ability to let your light shine  
forth for others.**

**I ask this in the name of the Father, Son, and  
Holy Spirit. Amen.**