Advent

THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

TRINITY
CHURCH

FAMILY EDITION

ADVENT, CANDLES & JESUS

- As a family, you might like to arrange 5 candles and light one each Sunday, just like lighting up your house as it gets closer to Christmas.
- Traditionally, Advent candles are part of a wreath, arranged in a circle, and sometimes a fifth candle in the middle (Called the 'Christ Candle').
- The candles help us remember God's promises and the special gift of Jesus as we think about hope, peace, joy, and love in our own lives while we wait for Christmas.
- There are 5 candles that remind us of Jesus in different ways:
    1. **Hope:** It reminds us that people hoped for a saviour to come and we hope for our saviour to return.
    2. **Peace:** It reminds us that Jesus brings peace to the world.
    3. **Joy:** It reminds us of the happiness and joy that Jesus' coming brings.
    4. **Love:** It reminds us of God's love for us and the love we can share with others.
    5. **Christ candle:** This candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth. It reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.

WEEK ONE: HOPE

Today is special because it is the beginning of a new season. We call this season Advent.

Advent means someone important is arriving. We use it to talk about the first and second coming of Jesus Christ.

Each Sunday until Christmas, we anticipate Jesus coming. We get ready, preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ. It's a time of joy and hope and confessing sin.

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God spoke through prophets in the Old Testament to tell people that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, would come. This candle of hope is symbolic of the long years of waiting and hoping for when Jesus Christ would come to save the people from their sins. Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah.

> Isaiah 7:14: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.
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> Isaiah 9:2- The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us of the hope that God gives us in Jesus Christ. We have many lights around us at Christmas time. The lights remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for coming to earth, just like the prophets said, and for your promise to come again. Thank you, Jesus, for being our light in the darkness of the world and the sure hope that you will restore us and the world back to yourself.

WEEK TWO: LOVE

This is the second Sunday in Advent. Do you remember what the first candle was about? Hope. Today we light the love candle. Jesus came because of God's love for the world. Jesus came so that God could show his love in a big way.

> Matthew 1:18, "This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit."

> Matthew 1:20, “An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”
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> John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

But, we know that we all love other things and people and not Jesus as our Lord. We put those things in the place of our heart and mind where God should be. So, we get ready for Jesus by confessing that we don’t love Jesus as much as we should or that he deserves, and knowing that he forgives and welcomes us.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for your son, Jesus. Thank you that you love us so much that you sent your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to love one another and to tell them of your love and forgiveness and the hope that you bring to our lives. Help us to trust your love for us. Amen.

WEEK THREE: JOY

This is the third Sunday in Advent. What were the first 2-weeks about? Hope and love. And, we do this to think about the coming and second coming of Jesus.

We have the hope of Jesus coming again, we are amazed that he loves us when we don’t love him as we ought to and this all bring us joy and him glory.In the Bible, we read of Mary’s joy.

> Luke 1:46-47, “And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,”

Mary’s words can guide us to look for the joy of God even when things may be uncertain for us. When Jesus was born, the angels comforted shepherds with the joy of the good news.

> Luke 2:8-11, “And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Prayer

Lord, today we rejoice. We rejoice because our Lord and Saviour, Jesus was born. Fill our hearts and our days with joy. We rejoice that you are with us always. Help us live in such a way that our words and our actions help others know of the joy you give. Amen.

WEEK FOUR: PEACE

This is the fourth time we are celebrating Advent. What have we looked at so far? Hope and love and joy. And, we do this to think about the coming and second coming of Jesus. Jesus brings great joy at the news of his birth and offer of salvation and love.

Today we light the candle of peace. Our world is not always a peaceful world. People sometimes hurt other people. We don't have peace with God. But God promises peace to us through Jesus. At Jesus' second coming peace will come all over his world like he wanted it to be in the beginning. So, we look forward to the future peace and wholeness of the world. We thank God he gives us peace now and we pray that others would know Gods' peace, too.

When we look at the fourth candle, we remember that the angels told the shepherds about the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

> Luke 2:13-14, "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."
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> Isaiah 9:6, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Prayer

Thank you, Father, for sending your son, Jesus the price of peace. Help us to know your peace, and to work for peace with the hope and joy that one day you will being peace to all who love you and all of your world. Amen.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Today, on Christmas, we also light the centre candle. This candle represents Jesus. When we light this candle, we remember Jesus' birth. Our waiting has ended. But, it still goes on. The joy, hope, peace and love of Christmas is only the beginning. We can remember the joy of Christmas all year!

> Luke 2:11, "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."
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> John 8:12, "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

God sent Jesus to give hope, peace, joy, and love to all people. Far away from Bethlehem, wise men saw a star in the sky. They remind us that the gift of Jesus was not just for the people in one place, but for all people.

> Matthew 2:1-2, "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."
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> Matthew 2:10-11, "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

God used a star to guide the wise men to Jesus and over these last 4-weeks God has guided us to the true meaning of Christmas during advent. God has come into the world in Jesus Christ to be with us so that we will experience God's hope, joy, love, and peace.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for your son, Jesus. Thank you for sending Jesus for all people and to rule over those who love you. On this Christmas Day, help us remember and rejoice again because Jesus was born. Help us live every day remembering your love and care, showing that to others and looking forward to one day being with you in a restored world. Amen.