

# *Advent*

Liturgy for Week 2

*Peace*



# Advent

## Liturgy for Week 2

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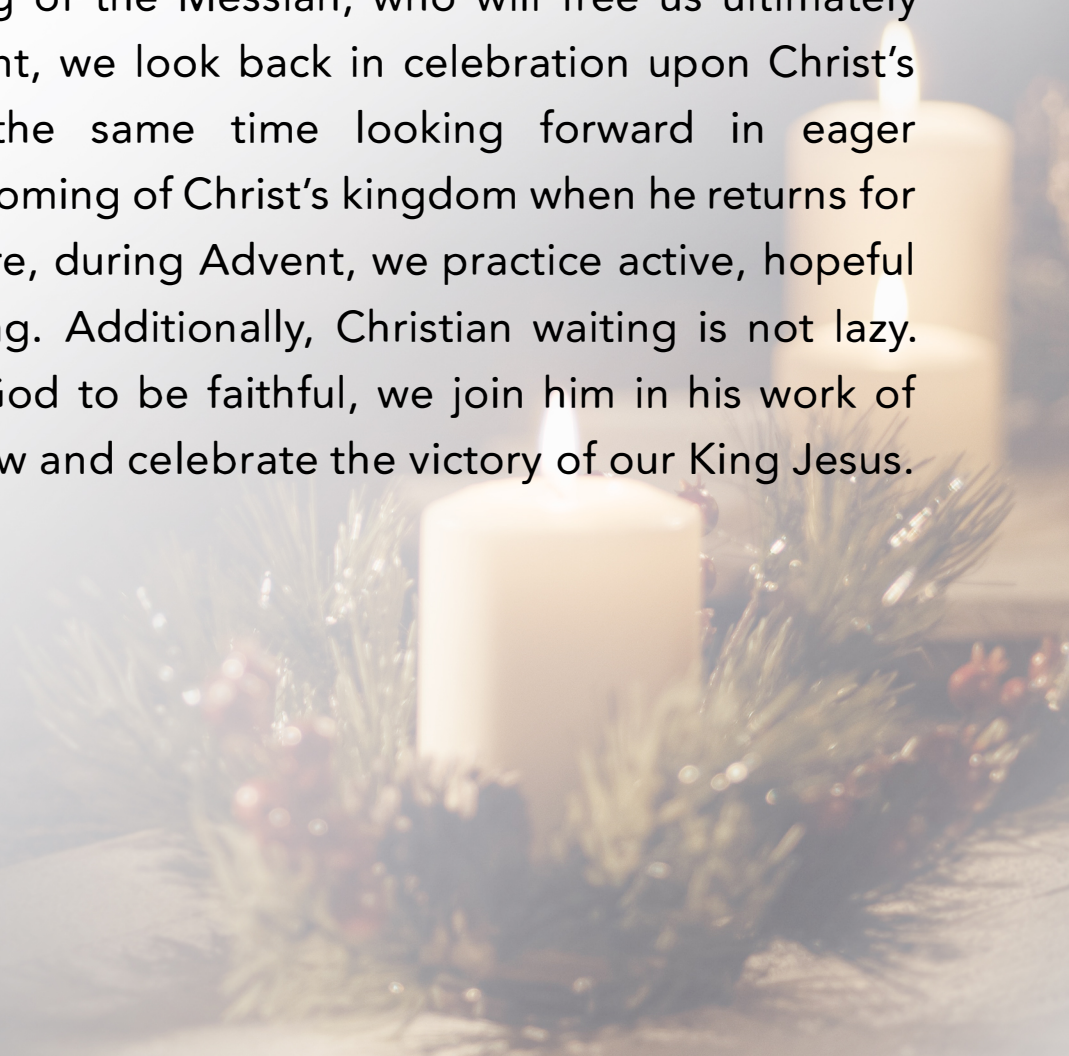
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# What is Advent?

The word advent means “coming” or “arrival”. In the Christian tradition, Advent is the first season of the Christian calendar and marked by hopeful waiting for the coming messiah. During early Christian history the celebration of the first coming of Jesus was a season joined with preparation, especially for new believers as they were coming into the faith for baptism. On Christmas Day, these new converts would receive the sacrament of baptism in accordance with the arrival of Jesus into the world to make all things new. Today, Advent represents the location of the Church within these “last days” as we await the second coming of Jesus into the world. The church, like Israel before her, is in exile, awaiting the coming of the Messiah, who will free us ultimately and finally. In Advent, we look back in celebration upon Christ’s coming while at the same time looking forward in eager expectation of the coming of Christ’s kingdom when he returns for his people. Therefore, during Advent, we practice active, hopeful and prayerful waiting. Additionally, Christian waiting is not lazy. Because we know God to be faithful, we join him in his work of making all things new and celebrate the victory of our King Jesus.

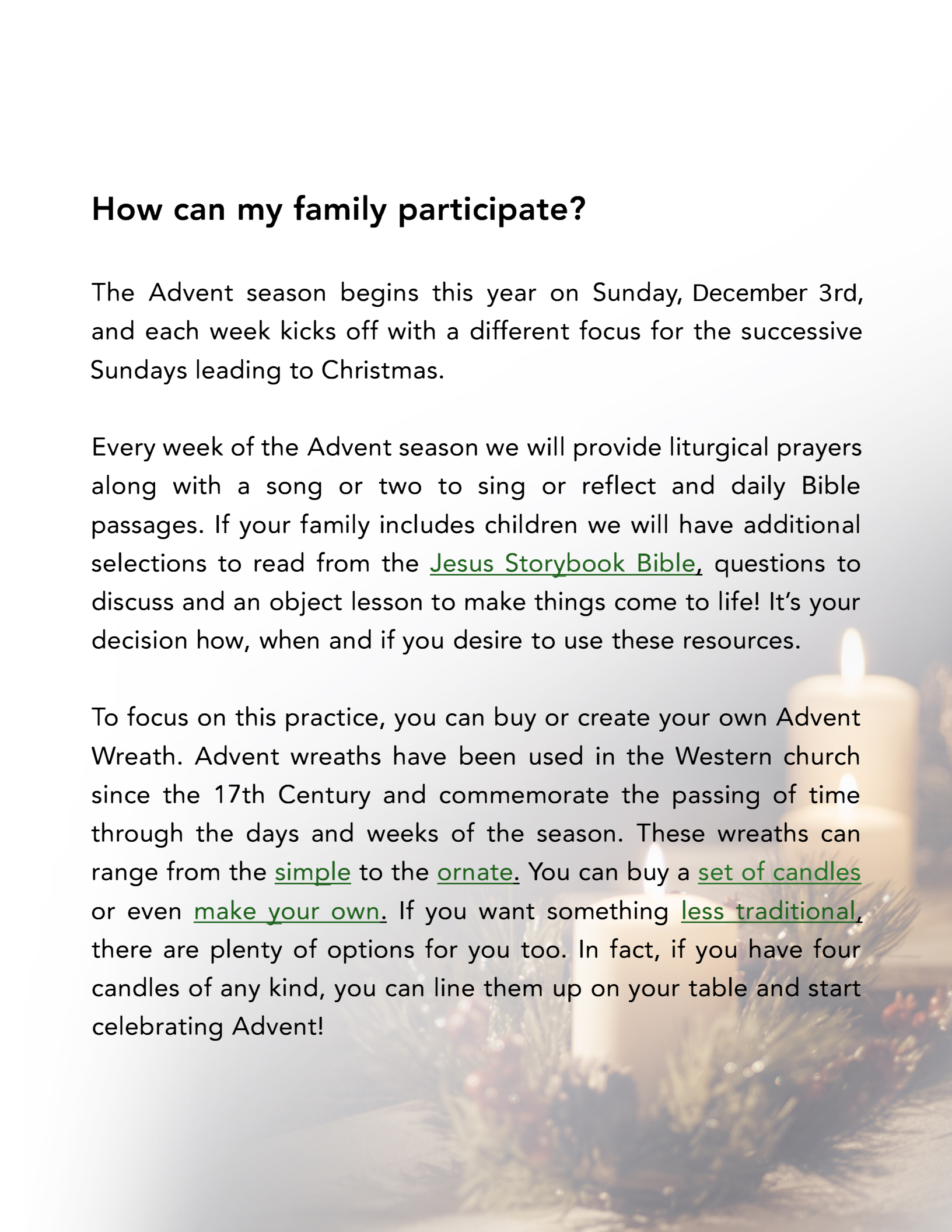


## How can my family participate?

The Advent season begins this year on Sunday, December 3rd, and each week kicks off with a different focus for the successive Sundays leading to Christmas.

Every week of the Advent season we will provide liturgical prayers along with a song or two to sing or reflect and daily Bible passages. If your family includes children we will have additional selections to read from the [Jesus Storybook Bible](#), questions to discuss and an object lesson to make things come to life! It's your decision how, when and if you desire to use these resources.

To focus on this practice, you can buy or create your own Advent Wreath. Advent wreaths have been used in the Western church since the 17th Century and commemorate the passing of time through the days and weeks of the season. These wreaths can range from the [simple](#) to the [ornate](#). You can buy a [set of candles](#) or even [make your own](#). If you want something [less traditional](#), there are plenty of options for you too. In fact, if you have four candles of any kind, you can line them up on your table and start celebrating Advent!

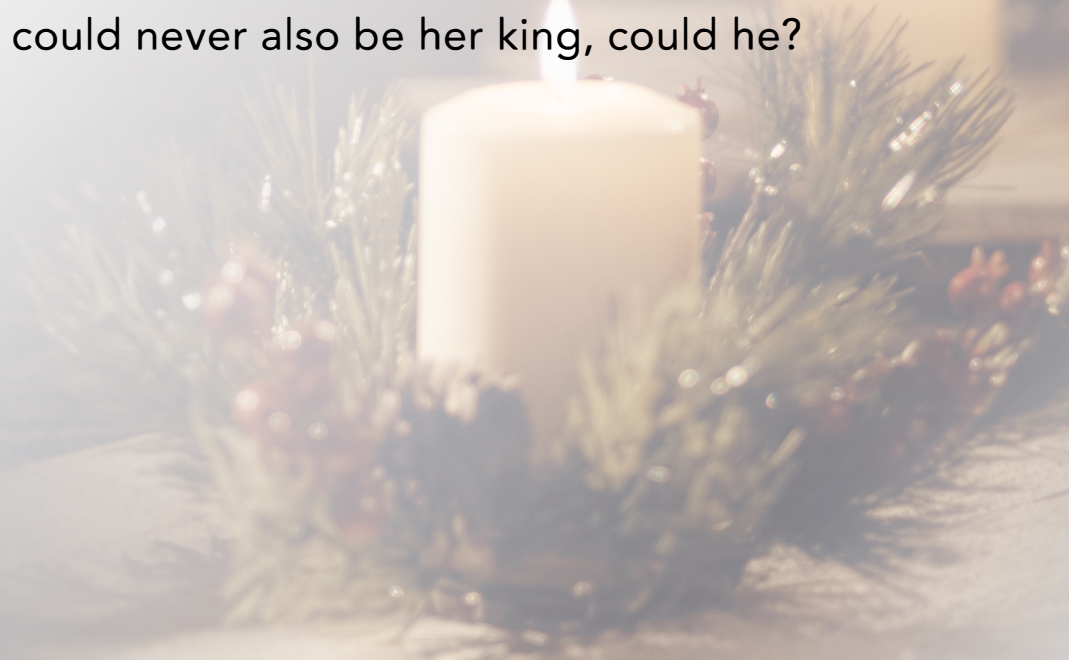




# Advent Liturgy for Adults

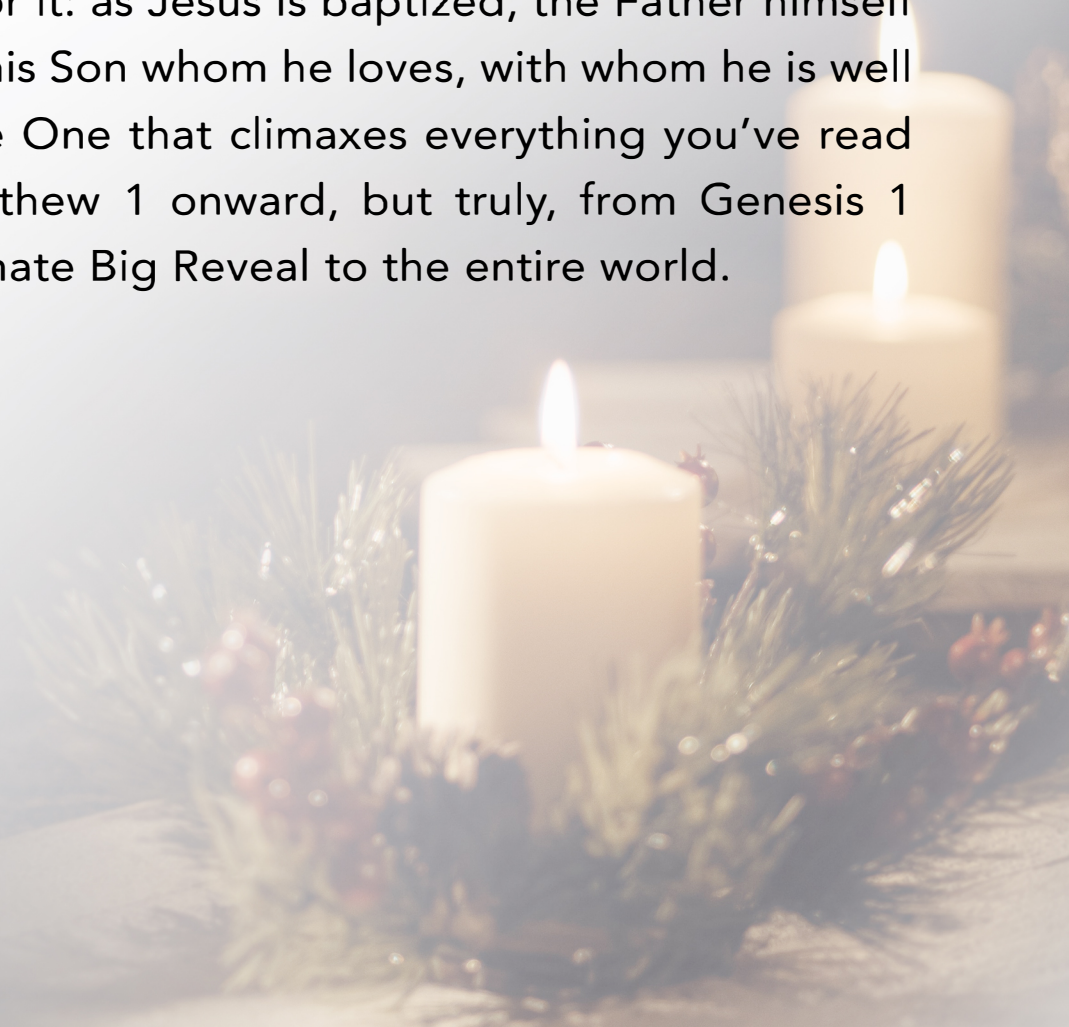
## Orientation to Morning Readings

When the church confesses that Jesus fulfills all of the Old Testament scriptures (Luke 24:44-47, 1 Corinthians 15:1-3) and not just one little thing over here and one there, that doesn't mean that there aren't key OT passages that were considered to be "messianic" even long before Jesus' advent. We look at a few of those passages this week. From the Pentateuch (i.e., the first five books of the Bible), check out in Numbers 24 the prophecy from a pretty strange guy named Balaam, who predicts that a kingly ruler will yet arise from Judah. Jesus is waiting on Line 1! Additionally, we'll find Moses in Deuteronomy 18 looking ahead to a prophet that will rival even himself, one faithful as Lord over the "house" that Moses has built (Hebrews 3:1-6). Finally, you'll begin your days with a selection mostly of kingly-messianic Psalms that portend the king that was promised, plus one poem that describes a suffering servant par excellence. But the agonized Israelite of Psalm 22 could never also be her king, could he?



## Orientation to Evening Readings

If you're tracking along with Sunday mornings at Liberti Collingswood, you've heard a couple of sermons by now from the gospel of Matthew. This week's evening lessons will walk you through all of the stanzas of Jesus' early life you'll encounter there. Hopefully the sermons so far have unlocked Matthew 1 for you a bit more, after which we run into a wise guy (Herod) and some wise men (the wise men). Our Matthew readings round out with John the Baptist preparing the way for the one whose arrival we cherish in this season. But don't just take John's word for it: as Jesus is baptized, the Father himself reveals that this is his Son whom he loves, with whom he is well pleased. This is the One that climaxes everything you've read not only from Matthew 1 onward, but truly, from Genesis 1 onward—the ultimate Big Reveal to the entire world.



# Week Two

*Starting Sunday, December 10th*

## Morning Liturgy

*(All scripture and prayers to be read out loud.)*

### The Call to Prayer

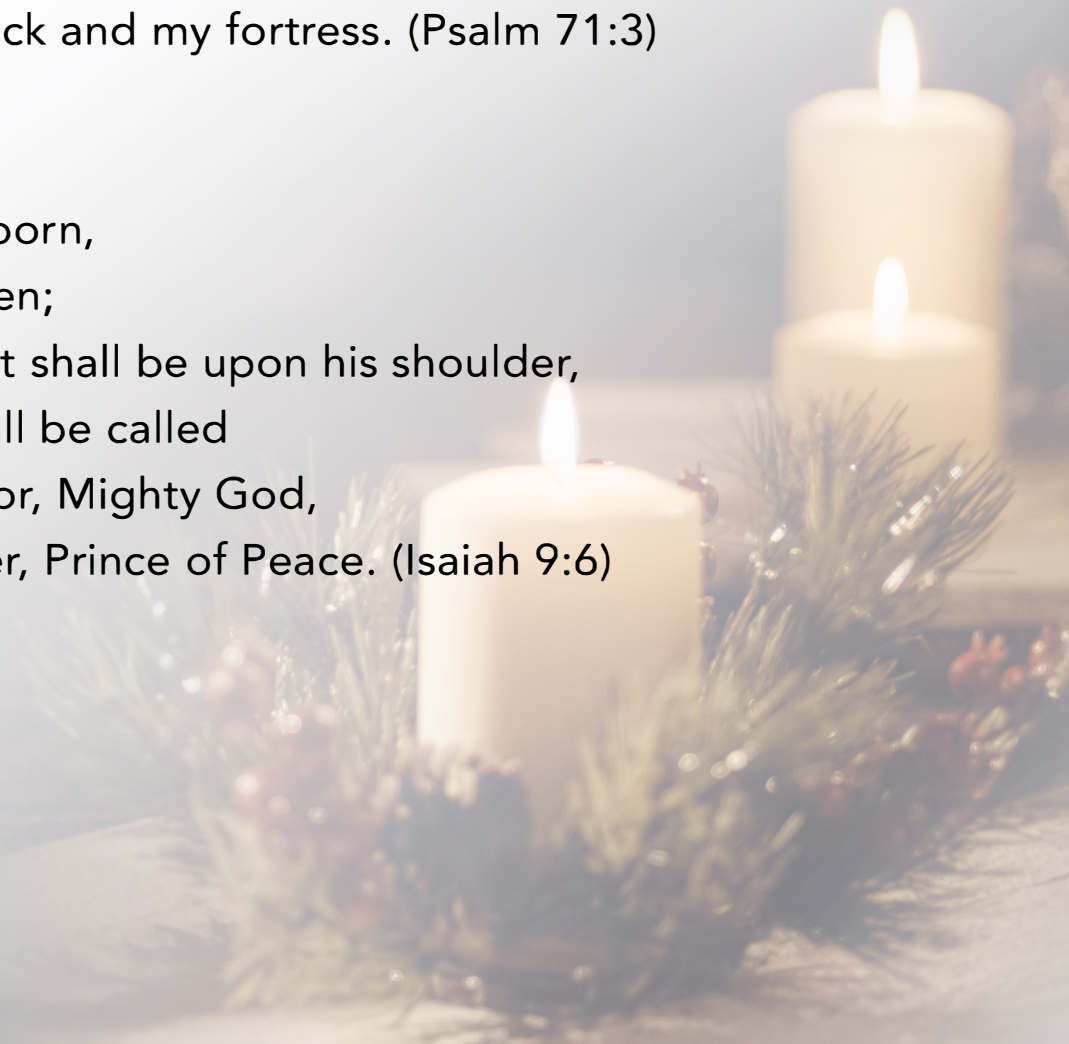
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise. (Psalm 51:15)

### The Request for Presence

Be to me a rock of refuge,  
to which I may continually come;  
you have given the command to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress. (Psalm 71:3)

### The Refrain

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)





## **The Morning Lesson**

Sunday: Numbers 24:15-19

Monday: Deuteronomy 18:15-18

Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 7:1-15

Wednesday: Psalm 2

Thursday: Psalm 22

Friday: Psalm 72

Saturday: Psalm 110

## **Silent Reflection and Prayer**

### **The Refrain**

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
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### **The Cry of the Church**

Even so, come, Lord Jesus

### **Prayer for the Second Week of Advent**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



# Evening Liturgy

*(All scripture and prayers to be read out loud.)*

## The Call to Prayer

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
(Psalm 95:1)

## The Request for Presence

Do not remember against us our former iniquities;  
let your compassion come speedily to meet us,  
for we are brought very low. (Psalm 79:8)

## The Lighting of the First Two Advent Candles (purple)

### The Refrain

Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:7)

### Advent Hymn

*Silent Night, Holy Night or Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

## **The Evening Lesson**

Sunday: Matthew 1:1-17

Monday: Matthew 1:18-25

Tuesday: Matthew 2:1-12

Wednesday: Matthew 2:13-15

Thursday: Matthew 2:16-23

Friday: Matthew 3:1-12

Saturday: Matthew 3:13-17

## **Silent Reflection and Prayer**

### **The Refrain**

Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,

on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
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The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:7)

### **The Cry of the Church**

Even so, come, Lord Jesus

### **Prayer for the Second Week of Advent**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



# Advent Liturgy for Children & Families Week Two: Peace

*Starting Sunday, December 10th*

## Sunday Liturgy

*(To be used to set the tone and introduce the week's theme)*

**Opening Prayer:** Lord Christ, we watch and wait for your coming. Ready our hearts to receive you. Amen.

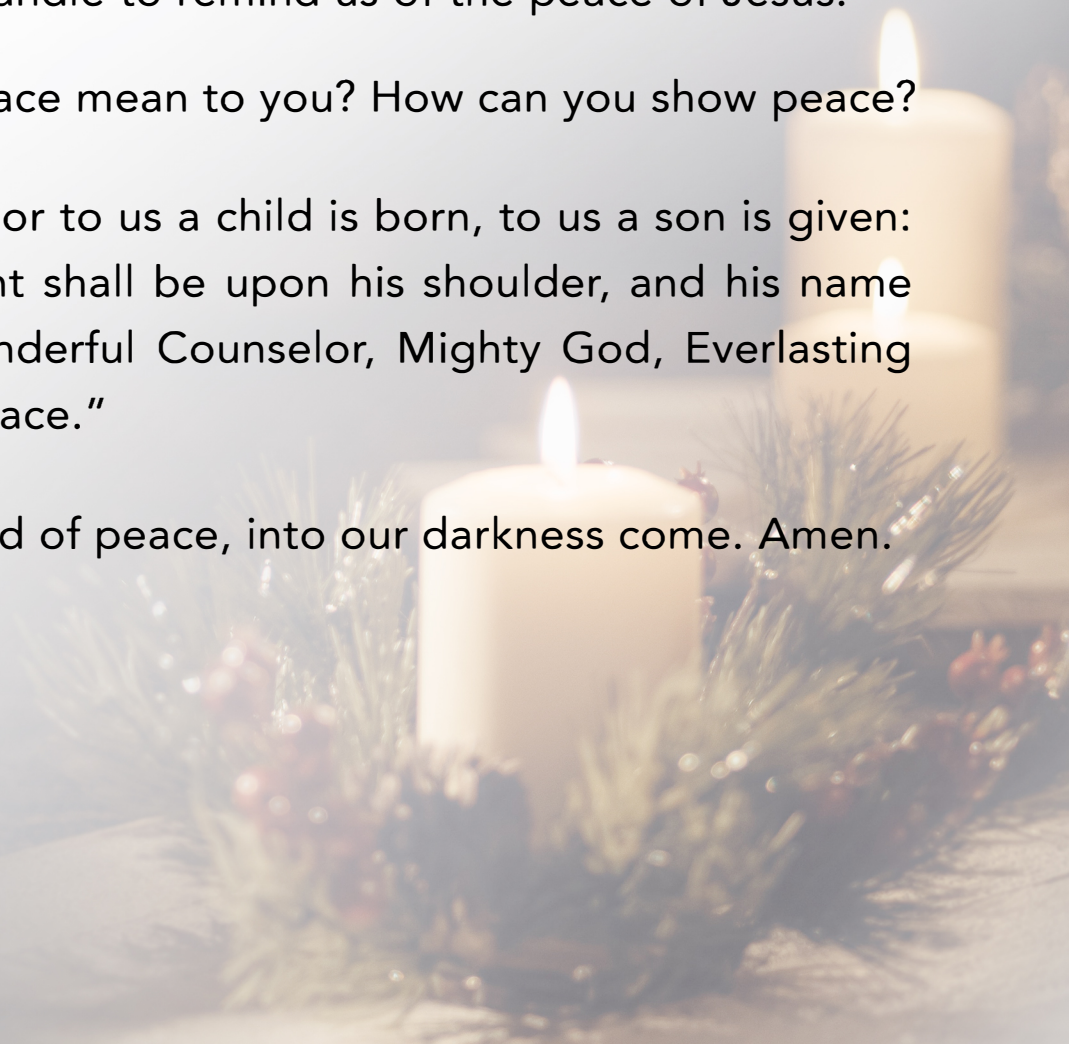
**Light** the first and second candles (purple).

**Say:** We light this candle to remind us of the peace of Jesus.

**Ask:** What does peace mean to you? How can you show peace?

**Read Isaiah 9:6:** "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

**Closing Prayer:** God of peace, into our darkness come. Amen.



## Weekday Liturgy

*(To be used each weekday to begin the deeper time of personal devotions, meditation or family study)*

**Opening Prayer:** (From Zechariah's Song) Out of God's deepest mercy, A dawn will come from on high, Light for those shadowed by death, A guide for our feet on the way of peace.

**Alternate Opening Prayer:** May the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious to us. May the Lord turn his face toward us and give us peace.

**Light** the first and second candles (purple).

## Weekday Reading

*(A daily scripture reading and an additional selection from the Jesus Storybook Bible)*

Monday: Psalm 27:1-2, 13-14 (*The Present*)

Tuesday: Luke 1:26-38 (*The Girl No One Wanted*)

Wednesday: Luke 1:67-79 (*The Forgiving Prince*)

Thursday: Colossians 3:1-17 (*God to the Rescue!*)

Friday: Psalm 36:5-9 (*God Makes A Way*)

Saturday: John 14:1-7 (*Ten Ways to be Perfect*)





**Closing Prayer:** Lord, may we be instruments of your peace today. Where there is hatred, let us sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. Amen.

**Advent Songs of Hope:** *Silent Night, Holy Night or Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*



# Supplemental Activities

## Liberti Kids 1 & 2

Turn on some music, and let it play quietly in the background. Then give each child a spoon and a pot or metal bowl. Tell them to bang on their pots and sing loudly when you say, "Go," and to stop when you say, "Stop." Let the children have fun banging on the pots for a while. When you are done, gather the noisemakers, then sit and listen to the quiet music. After the noise making and the quiet music, the parent could ask each child which activity was more peaceful. Talk about how the quiet music is like the peace that God gives us. Trusting God and knowing He's there for us gives us peace. We can have that peace no matter what's happening in our lives.

## Liberti Kids 3

Play Stress Tag! With your hands waving all around your head like a chaotic windmill, say, "Stress, stress, stress." Chase after the children to make them it. You may only tag those who are not saying, "I have God's peace." Children can do anything fun around you, as long as they are saying, "I have God's peace." They can even flail their arms as you are as they advance toward you, but they can stop doing this when their arms get tired. You can't. Afterward, tell your children that God says we shouldn't be stressed or worried about anything (Matthew 6:25-34). Remind



them to talk to Jesus and ask Him for peace and calmness when they're having a bad day. Explain that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, offers His peace and comfort. To end the game, give each child a big hug.

### **Liberti Kids 4**

Map out a 10- to 15-minute route near your home. Try to find places that your children won't recognize. Now blindfold your kids, and tell them that you're going on a little mystery car ride. Drive to different stops on your route, giving your kids a few seconds to lift their blindfold and try to guess where they are. Have them write their guesses down and lower their blindfolds before you leave for the next stop.

After the route is done, stop at a favorite restaurant or snack shop for a quick treat. Ask your kids where they thought they were at each stop. When you hit one where they weren't sure, ask if they were scared. If not, ask them why. The answer is generally something like, "You knew where you were going."

Tell your child that the car ride was in some ways a picture of life. Sometimes we aren't sure where we are in life, why we're here or where we're going. But that uncertainty doesn't have to be scary-

God knows where we are, and He knows where we're going next. Just like your kids trusted the driver, we can trust that God is in control. That complete trust brings the peace that God promises us. Read John 14:27 and Philippians 4:6-7 and ask: What do you think Jesus meant when He promised to leave us His peace? What does Jesus' peace look like? Feel like? Does having Jesus' peace means we'll never have troubles? Wrap up your discussion with prayer, asking God to help your family recognize His peace in all of life's circumstances.

*All activities adapted from [focusonthefamily.com](http://focusonthefamily.com).*

