

Advent

Liturgy for Week 3

Joy



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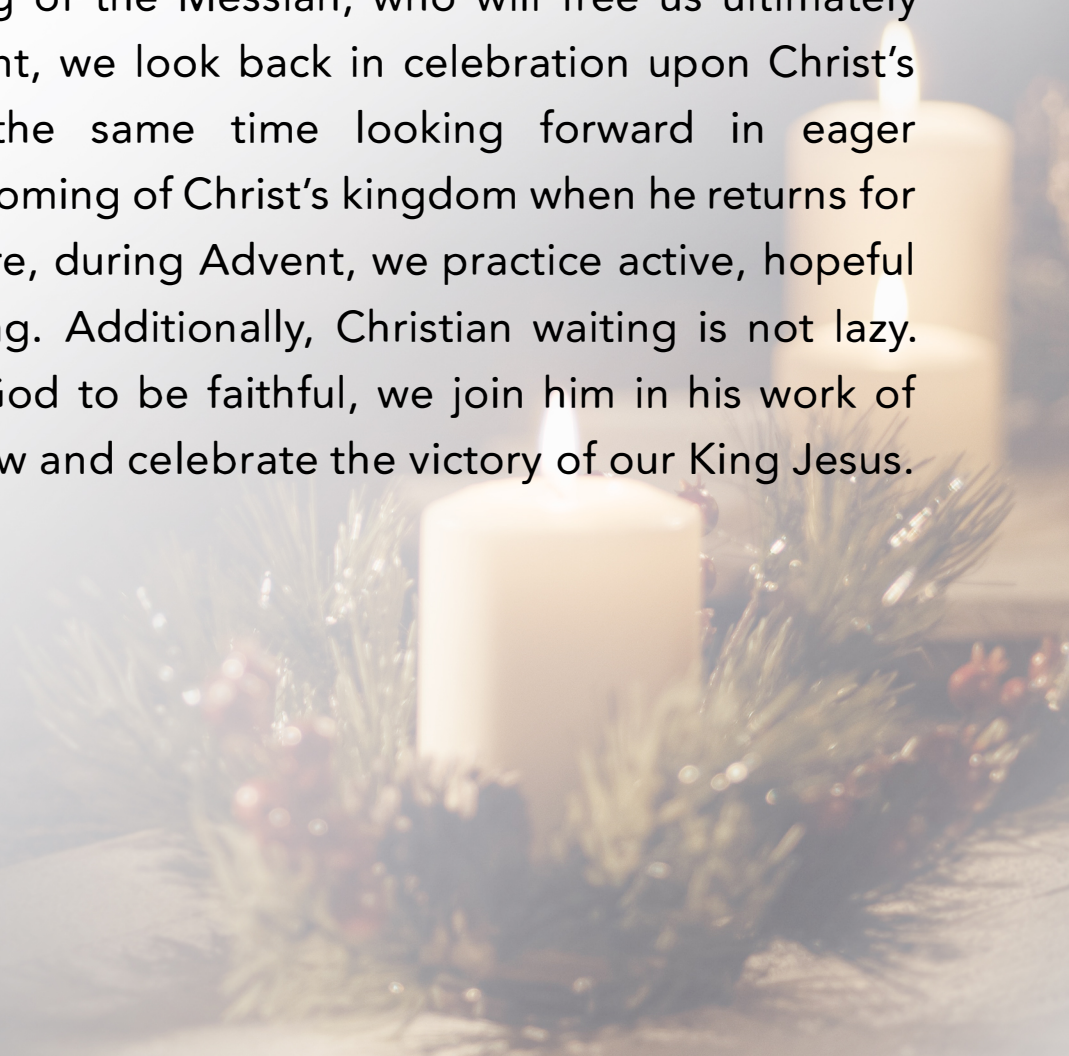
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What is Advent?

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.

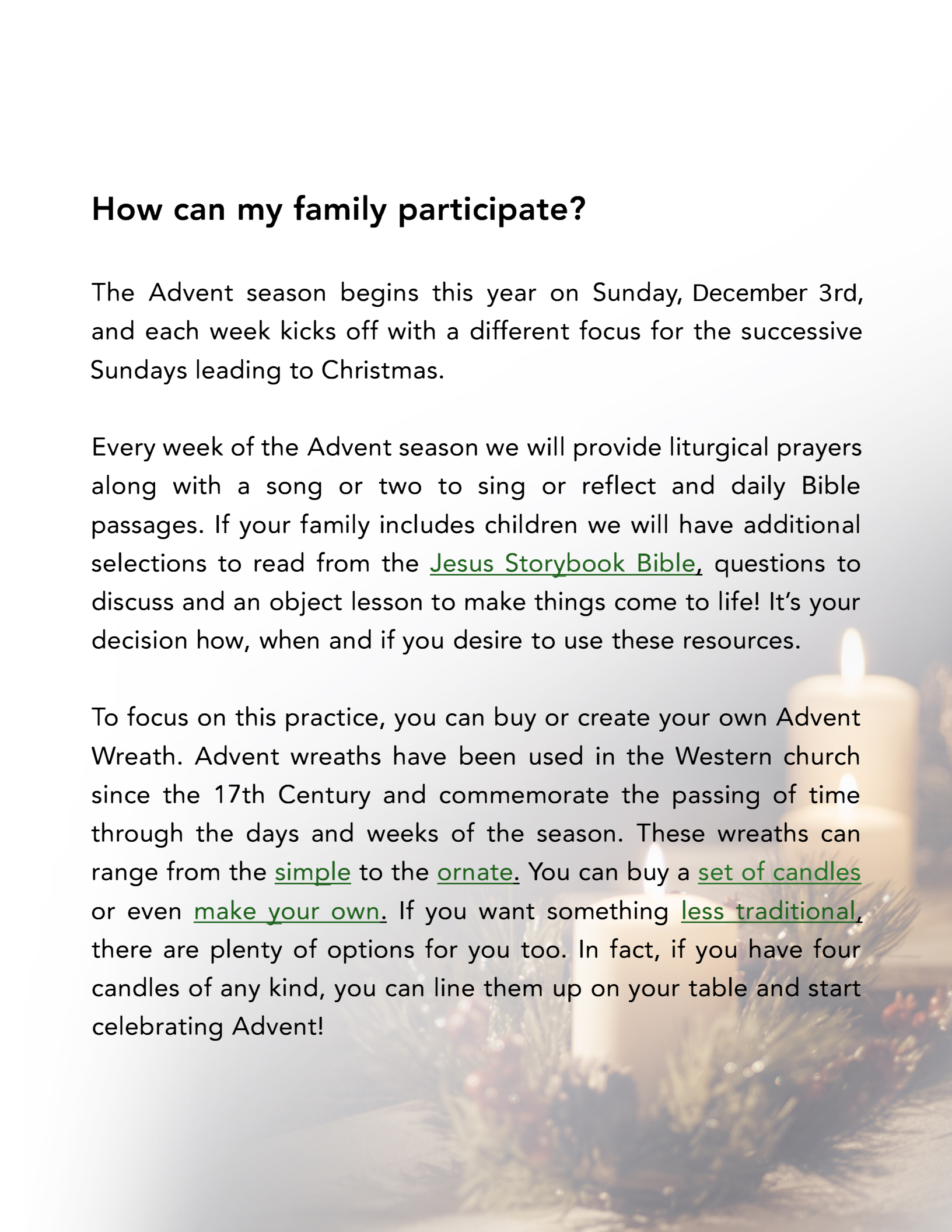


How can my family participate?

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.

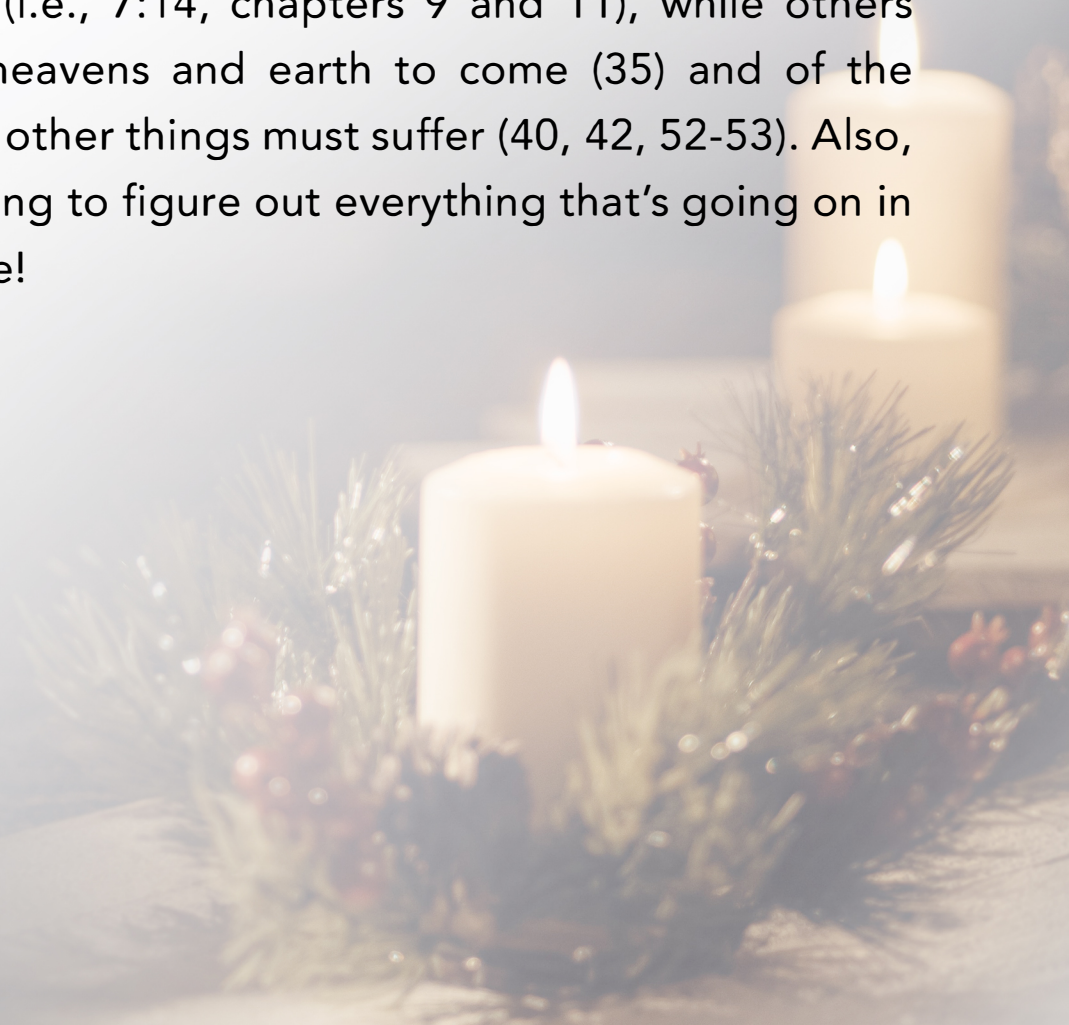
To focus on this practice, you can buy or create your own Advent Wreath. Advent wreaths have been used in the Western church since the 17th Century and commemorate the passing of time through the days and weeks of the season. These wreaths can range from the [simple](#) to the [ornate](#). You can buy 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

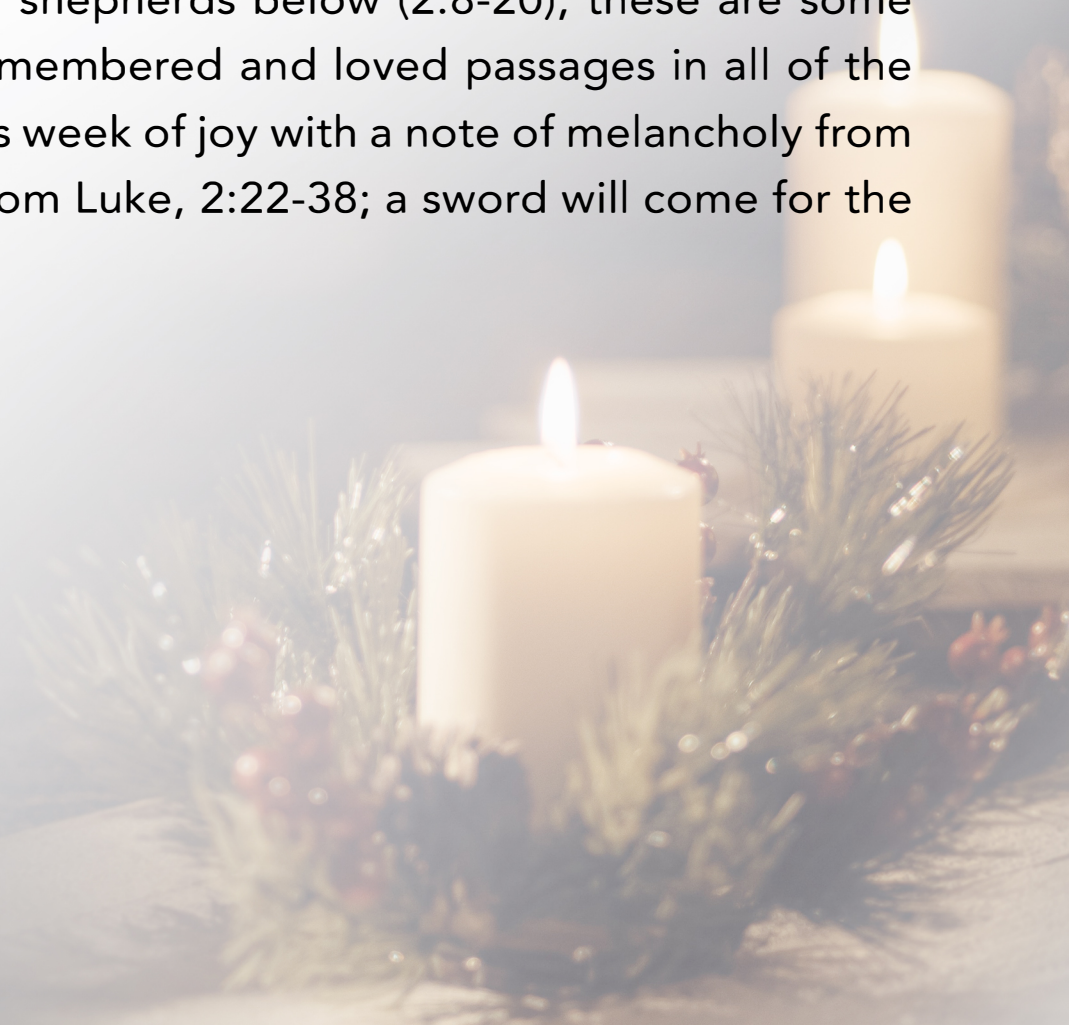
Orientation to Morning Readings

Don't call Philadelphia the "sixth borough," but you have permission to refer to Isaiah as the "fifth gospel." Sure, Isaiah is technically a) not an account of the life of Jesus of Nazareth, and b) not even in the New Testament. At the same time, this ancient prophetic book has been considered to be so ringingly clear in its articulation of God's promised purposes of graciously restoring all creation, and in its depiction of a messianic "Servant of the Lord," that one can understand where the fifth gospel moniker is coming from. You may recognize some of these selections as common to the Advent season (i.e., 7:14, chapters 9 and 11), while others speak of the new heavens and earth to come (35) and of the Servant who among other things must suffer (40, 42, 52-53). Also, bonus points for trying to figure out everything that's going on in that Isaiah 7 passage!



Orientation to Evening Readings

Last week was Matthew, and this week, Luke! It's only these two gospels that contain birth narratives of Jesus, and they're striking for both their similarities and differences. If Matthew begins his story with a genealogy, Luke jumps in like a journalist (1:1-4) before recounting the story not yet of Jesus' coming, but of John the Baptist's. However, Matthew and Luke each steep their accounts in Old Testament quotations and allusions in order to show that in Christ, God is now fulfilling all of his promises of old. From the "Magnificat" of Mary (1:46-56) to the angels on high and shepherds below (2:8-20), these are some of the most well remembered and loved passages in all of the Bible. Conclude this week of joy with a note of melancholy from our last selection from Luke, 2:22-38; a sword will come for the Son (v. 35).



Week Three

Starting Sunday, December 17th

Morning Liturgy

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

The Call to Prayer

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

(Psalm 146:2)

The Request for Presence

Send out your light and your truth;

let them lead me;

let them bring me to your holy hill

and to your dwelling! (Psalm 43:3)

The Refrain

Of the increase of his government and of peace

there will be no end,

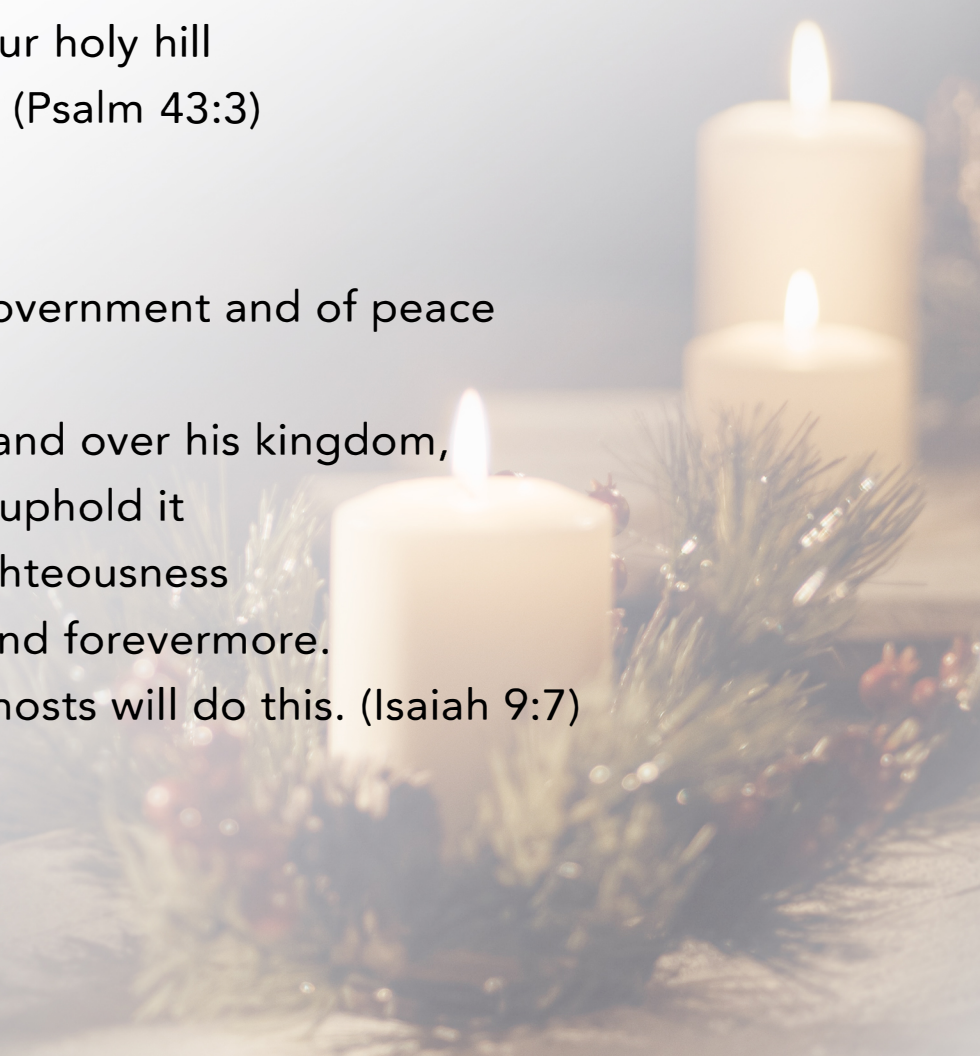
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,

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)



The Morning Lesson

Sunday: Isaiah 7:10-25

Monday: Isaiah 9:1-7

Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10

Wednesday: Isaiah 35:1-10

Thursday: Isaiah 40

Friday: Isaiah 42:1-9

Saturday: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

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,
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)

The Cry of the Church

O God, come to my assistance! O Lord, make haste to help me!

Prayer for the Third Week of Advent

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory now and forever. Amen.

Evening Liturgy

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

The Call to Prayer

Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised! (Psalm 113:1-2)

The Request for Presence

Do not forsake me, O Lord!
O my God, be not far from me!
Make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation! (Psalm 38:21-22)

The Lighting of the First Three Advent Candles (purple & pink)

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

Joy to the World or O Come, All Ye Faithful

The Evening Lesson

Sunday: Luke 1:1-4

Monday: Luke 1:5-25

Tuesday: Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday: Luke 1:39-56

Thursday: Luke 1:57-80

Friday: Luke 2:1-21

Saturday: Luke 2:22-38

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,
to establish it and to uphold it
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The Cry of the Church

O God, come to my assistance! O Lord, make haste to help me!

Prayer for the Third Week of Advent

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us;
and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful
grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus
Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor
and glory now and forever. Amen.

Advent Liturgy for Children & Families Week Three: Joy

Starting Sunday, December 17th

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.

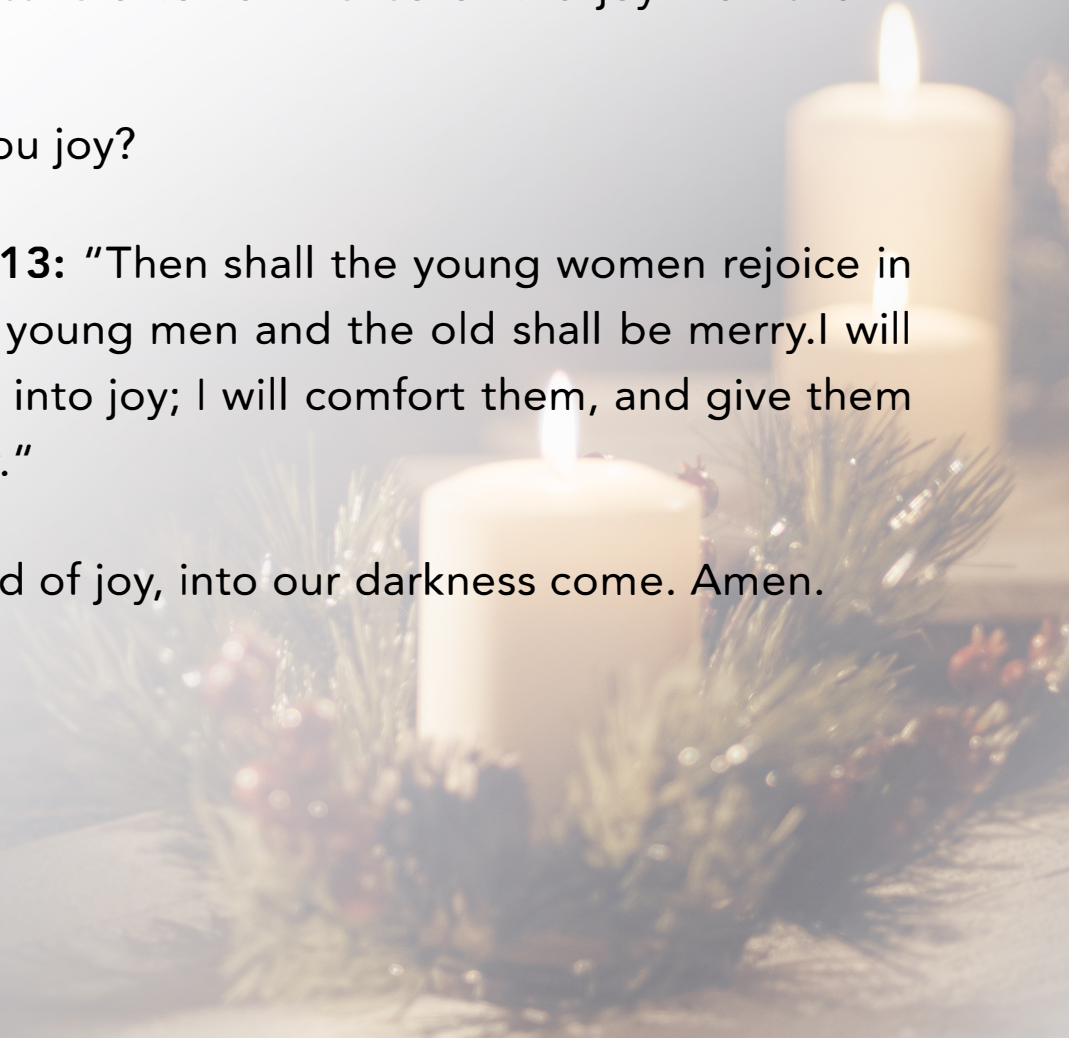
Light three candles (purple and pink).

Say: We light this candle to remind us of the joy we have in Jesus.

Ask: What brings you joy?

Read Jeremiah 31:13: "Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow."

Closing Prayer: God of joy, 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: Lord, you have brought us safely to this new day. Help us to live it with joy, and in simple acts of kindness.

Alternate Opening Prayer: *From Mary's Song:* My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Amen.

Weekday Reading

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

Monday: Psalm 40:1-5 (*The Warrior Leader*)

Tuesday: Luke 2:8-20 (*The Teeny, Weenie...True King*)

Wednesday: John 1:1-5 (*The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant*)

Thursday: Luke 2:21-35 (*The Good Shepherd*)

Friday: Psalm 103:1-14 (*A Little Servant Girl and the Proud General*)

Saturday: Isaiah 25:7-9 (*Operation No More Tears!*)

Closing Prayer: God of mercy and consolation, help us in our weakness and free us from sin. Hear our prayers, that we may rejoice at the coming of your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Advent Songs of Hope: *Joy to the World* or *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Supplemental Activities

Liberti Kids 1 & 2

Give your child something that they are usually unable to enjoy on a daily basis, like a food treat or special toy. While they are enjoying it, talk to them about how they feel - most likely very happy! Discuss about how they will feel when the toy is put away or the treat is all gone. Explain how God's joy is different from happiness. Being happy comes and goes but God's joy comes from knowing He loves us. We can have God's joy even when bad things happen or we feel upset because God's love for us hasn't changed! Before finishing your time together name some ways that God is good to your family so that your child can feel God's joy later this week.

Liberti Kids 3

Wrap small amounts of money in individual packages, and give one to each child. Encourage them to guess what's inside. After they unwrap it, help them consider how they will use the money — tithe, save and spend. Then remind them to say thank you. Explain how God gives people His joy — a daily offering. Ask children to look at joy as a gift.

Explain how prayer and reading the Bible are ways they can receive joy. Knowing that they are God's children, that He loves

them and that He wants what is best for them brings joy. Joy is not happiness but can be in them at all times — during easy as well as difficult days. They can share it with others because God is the provider. Children can show joy through good attitudes, helpfulness and thankfulness. Remind children to tell God “thank You” for daily giving them His joy!

Liberti Kids 4

To teach your children about one aspect of joy, declare one Saturday as New Day. On this day, everything they do should be new. Instead of getting dressed the way they usually do, have them put on their clothing out of order or on backward. For breakfast, serve lunch, and then read them a bedtime story. Continually change things that happen in a normal day so that tweens are anticipating how they will complete their chores and other routine activities. Some ideas for helping the day feel new to your kids are to walk backward, comb their hair with their arms interlocked, turn a book upside down and try to read it, eat breakfast foods for lunch, picnic at the side of the house, have a laughing contest during rest time, sing a song in reverse, enter the house only by the back door, etc. Perhaps set a timer, and every hour do something different together. The next day, explain that God’s joy allows people to see everyday things in a new way and even enjoy activities that we don’t necessarily like. Remind them that they can have God’s joy in all they do because God’s love for them brings joy.