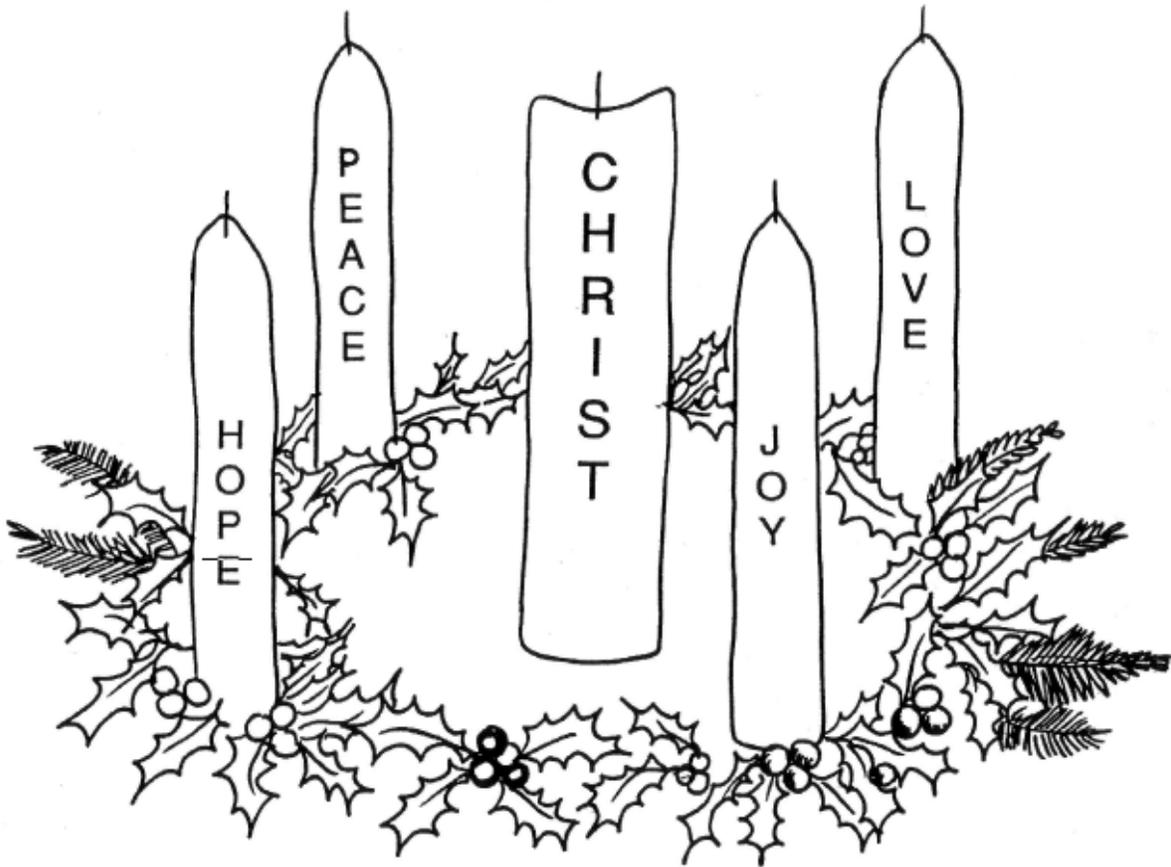


Being the LIGHT

as we bring HOPE, PEACE, JOY, & LOVE



Hooker Memorial Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)



HM-CC.ORG
2020

Worshipping through Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany

Worship has taken on new meaning and significance in recent months. The importance of worship and of whom we worship is emphasized more readily in this season of the year. As we draw nearer to Christmas this affords us the time and the opportunity to spend more intentional time together as a family. We use these moments making and renewing traditions. We also rejoice together in celebrating the reason for the season, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Advent itself is meant to be a reflective, and anticipatory, season of waiting and preparation for what is coming, the birth of Jesus Christ. It is also the beginning of our liturgical calendar year. The Advent Wreath, a symbol of our waiting, has four candles: three purple and one pink (the candle for Joy) although you can also use any color you like. The four Sundays in Advent are the Sundays of **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**. We also have a fifth, traditionally white, candle in the center of our wreath. This white candle is the **Christ** candle and is lit to represent Christ's arrival and birth. This is the candle of **Christ** which can also be called the candle of **Light**.

This booklet is set up so that each week we can gather for a moment of devotion and worship time. The purpose of this booklet is meant to remind us that we can be the **Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Light of Christ** throughout this season of Advent, during the days of Christmas, and to Epiphany.

Each Sunday we invite you to also make use of repeated elements of Worship to unify us and to remind us of the unique season. You can also add other elements as you may like. They will be listed out here and simply noted on each day's page.

You are invited to also sing: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,

His name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us,

His name is called Emmanuel.

Call to Worship:

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of God's Royal Son?

With branches, garlands, and wreaths whose leaves are ever living, ever green. With symbols all around us to remind us of our faith telling of His birth so we might recall His passion, death, and resurrection.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

With candles lit, and hearts open to His presence.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

By gathering to worship, gathering to praise.

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

By hearing again, the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Glory to God on Highest!

Each week in Worship you are invited to also partake of Communion. The Words of Institution for the Bread and Cup can be found in your Bible: 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

**Use what you have on hand to represent the elements.*

End your time in communion by reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On earth as it is heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory. Forever and ever. Amen.

Reflect on the practice of tithing, giving, and sharing out of our abundance as a part of our worship and as an expression of our faith. You are invited to then sing the Doxology.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host. Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen

Hope

First Sunday of Advent · Nov · 29

Call to Worship

Singing of “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Light: One purple candle, this is the candle of **Hope**. *We light this candle the Candle of HOPE (light the front purple candle) to remind us to stay awake, to stay watchful, and to keep seeking for the hope found in the promised one, for our savior is coming.*

Read: John 1:1-18

Sing: “O Come All Ye Faithful”

*O Come All Ye Faithful--Joyful and triumphant,--
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,--Born the King of Angels;--
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,--O come, let us adore Him,--
Christ the Lord.*

Reflection on “In Hope, All is Found” Hope fills our season of Advent. In a year that has been at the very least frustrating and in many cases challenging we seek hope in each circumstance and situation. What better time to hope than in this one? When we are faced with uncertainty? When we have unknowns? Hope is what carries us through these times for hope is fundamental to faith. It is hope that sustains us and asks us to believe in Jesus Christ’s birth, life, and death. So, what are some of the things we hope for in this season? What are some of our hopes through the rest of the year, into next? How can we seek out the hope around us?

Communion, Lord’s Prayer, Tithes & Offerings, Doxology

Pray: We come, and we adore you Lord, we know you are coming. We wait for your coming. We are so hopeful for what your coming means. Help us as we wait for you. Help us to celebrate your gift of hope in our lives. Hope sustains us. Amen.

Peace

Second Sunday of Advent · Dec · 6

Call to Worship

Singing of “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Light: Two purple candles; re-light the **Hope** candle and the new one is for **Peace**. *We light this candle, the Candle of PEACE. For in the beginning, God called the world into being out of the chaos. God brought peace to disorder and mayhem. Yet, we have always struggled to maintain that peace. We must remind ourselves of what peace means, we have to accept that your peace gives us freedom from the perceptions of the world so that we can better seek the Holy. So, we light it to remind us that your peace is in the coming of your son, and he is Peace on Earth. We also re-light the candle of HOPE, as we are still watching and waiting for his coming.*

Read: Matthew 1: 18-25

Sing: “Let There Be Peace On Earth”

Let There Be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me.

Let There Be Peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be!

With God as our Father, God’s Children all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.

With ev’ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!

Reflection on “Peaceful Chaos” Peace, true peace, can be a gift. For many of us it means a time to be quiet, to let the cares of our world fall away, to have no worries or concerns. For others of us Peace is simply a center when the world is in chaos around us, it overflows from our assurance that God is with us through it all. What are some moments of peace you have been gifted with? How can you give the gift of peace to others?

Communion, Lord’s Prayer, Tithes & Offerings, Doxology

Pray: Lord we thank you for your gift of Peace as we make choices in this life. Help us continue to Hope for your coming and to wait in your Peace. Hope sustains us, your Peace fills us. Amen.

Joy

Third Sunday of Advent · Dec · 13

Call to Worship

Singing of “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Light: The purple candles for **Hope** and **Peace** and the pink candle for **Joy**. *We light this candle, the Candle of JOY (light the pink candle, and the two purple candles) to remind us of the joyous celebration that is in the birth of your beloved son. We also re-light the candle of HOPE as we are still watching and waiting and the candle of PEACE that helps us prepare for your coming.*

Read: Luke 1: 26-56

Sing: “Joy to the World”

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come.--Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room;--And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing.--And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns--Let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains--Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy--Repeat the sounding joy*

*No more let sin and sorrows grow,--Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow--Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,--Far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,--And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness.--And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,--And wonders, wonders of His love.*

Reflection on “Joyful, Joyful” What causes us to be joyful, to be happy? How do we know others are joyful or happy? Have we ever gotten so excited we can not contain it? How can we share our joy with others this Advent and Christmas season? How can we give others joy?

Communion, Lord’s Prayer, Tithes & Offerings, Doxology

Pray: Joy surrounds us, wonderful God! We rejoice in each day as we come together to celebrate your coming presence. Hope sustains us, Peace fills us and your Joy overflows. Amen.

Love

Fourth Sunday of Advent · Dec · 20

Call to Worship

Singing of “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Light: The purple candles for **Hope** and **Peace**, the pink for **Joy** and the last purple candle for **Love**. We light this candle, the Candle of LOVE (light all the purple and the pink) to remind us of the love that came down and resided with us. Our anticipation builds, the event we have been waiting for is almost here. We remember Jesus’ birth and all the reasons he came. One reason stands out among the rest and that is Love. It is your love God that we remember and honor today it is your love that transforms us as we seek to be representatives of your love on this earth. We also re-light the candle of HOPE as we are still watching and waiting, the candle of PEACE that helps us prepare for your coming, and the candle of JOY that rejoices with us.

Read: 1 John 4: 7-19

Sing: “Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,--The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.--The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,--The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,--But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;--I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky--And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay--Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
--Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, --And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.*

Reflection on “Where is the Love?” What gifts of love have you given this Advent season? Who do you love? Who loves you? What are some ways we tell another that we love them? How can we show God’s love this Advent season? How can we show God’s love all year long? How can we give gifts of Love?

Communion, Lord’s Prayer, Tithes & Offerings, Doxology

Pray: God of Love, we love you and thank you for your love in our lives. Thank you for the love that gave us Jesus and thank you for the gift of your love you have given us in and through our family and friends. Hope sustains us, Peace fills us, Joy overflows, and your Love abounds. Amen.

Light

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Dec · 24 and Dec · 25

Call to Worship

Singing of “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Light: The three purple candles, and the pink candle for *Hope, Peace, Joy,* and *Love* and then light the central white *Christ* candle for *Light*.

Read: Luke 2: 1-20

Sing: Your favorite Christmas Songs.

Reflect on “Light in the Darkness” What is most important about this night and day of all nights and of all days? How can we be the Light of Jesus Christ in this world?

Communion, Lord’s Prayer, Tithes & Offerings, Doxology

Pray: Thank you, Lord, for your Son, Jesus who is the Christ and whose light shone through the darkness and was your wonderful gift to us. He is the reason for this season. Hope sustains us, Peace fills us, Joy overflows, your Love abounds, and Jesus is the Light of the world and of our lives. Amen!

Merry Christmas!

Christmastide

Days of Christmas · Dec · 27

Call to Worship

Singing of “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Light: The three purple candles, and the pink candle for **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love** and then light the central white **Christ** candle for **Light**. To most of the world Christmas is over and finished. Dec. 26th heralds the coming, New Year. Many do not know or recall that we have a particular season in between. We are amidst Christmas. We are amidst the celebrating time of the life of Jesus as the Christ, son of the living God, lord and Savior of our World. We are in a time of celebration. We have left the season of Advent behind, our season of watching and preparation is finished and now we are in a time that calls us to celebrate the Glory of God in God’s Son.

So, we continue to light our candles. We re-light the candle of hope as our hope is fulfilled by the coming of our Christ. We relight the candle of peace for the Prince of Peace is among us. We relight the Christ candle of Joy for he is here, and we are joyful in the presence of the Lord. We relight the love candle to remind us of the love that came down and resides with us. And we re-light the candle of Christ because we have gathered in the name of the lord and like the wisemen before us we continue to seek out the light of Christ in our lives.

Read: Luke 2: 1-20

Sing: Your favorite Christmas Songs and add in “Go Tell It On The Mountain” (if you know it!)

Reflect on “God is With Us” In what ways has the presence of God been felt by you this year, particularly this year? How do we continue to see God with us, even amid upheaval and trials? How can we help other see that God is with them too?

Communion, Lord’s Prayer, Tithes & Offerings, Doxology

Pray: Thank you, Lord, for your Son, Jesus who is the Christ and whose light shone through the darkness and was your wonderful gift to us. He is the reason for this season. Hope sustains us, Peace fills us, Joy overflows, your Love abounds, and Jesus is the Light of the world and of our lives. Amen!

Epiphany

Jan · 3

Call to Worship

Singing of “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Light: The three purple candles, and the pink candle for **Hope, Peace, Joy,** and **Love** and then light the central white **Christ** candle for **Light**. Christmastide is waning, and the journey the Wise Ones take is concluding. For the wise among us will always continue to seek the Light. The Light that calls us to celebrate the Glory of God in God’s Son. We re-light the candle of hope as our hope is fulfilled by the coming of our Christ. We relight the candle of peace for the Prince of Peace is among us. We relight the Christ candle of Joy for he is here, and we are joyful in the presence of the Lord. We relight the love candle to remind us of the love that came down and resides with us. And we re-light the candle of Christ because we have gathered in the name of the lord and like the wisemen before us we continue to seek out the light of Christ in our lives.

Read: Matthew 2:1-2

Sing: “I Wonder As I Wander”

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus my Saviour did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander out under the sky*

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
That Jesus my Saviour did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander out under the sky*

I wonder as I wander out under the sky

Reflect on “Light It Up!” How can we not wonder so much that we wander too far from the Light? Because it is the LIGHT that draws us together, binds us together, and loves us fully. How can we Light up the world with HOPE? How can we Light up the world with PEACE? With JOY? With LOVE?

Communion, Lord’s Prayer, Tithes & Offerings, Doxology

Pray: Thank you, Lord, for your Son, Jesus who is the Christ and whose light shone through the darkness and was your wonderful gift to us. He is the reason for this season. Hope sustains us, Peace fills us, Joy overflows, your Love abounds, and Jesus is the Light of the world and of our lives. Amen!