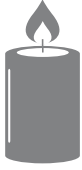


Hide The Word

CHALLENGE YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY TO MEMORIZE AT LEAST ONE OF THESE PASSAGES (OR ONE EACH WEEK)!

- 1 | In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. In him was life, and that like was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not over come it!
JOHN 1:1&3
- 2 | The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
ISAIAH 9:2
- 3 | For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
ISAIAH 9:6
- 4 | She will give birth to a son, and you will give him the name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.
MATTHEW 1:21
- 5 | The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.
JOHN 1: 14 (MSG)

hope



"Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ and strangers to the covenant of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." Romans 2:12-13

November 30th, 2021

LIGHT THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Tonight we light the candle of hope. May we remember that Christ is the light in the darkness who brings us hope! Let hope light the way.

Reflect. What does hope mean to you? The word means to expect something with confidence. We can find hope in Jesus, who brings light to the darkness. God did not leave us in our brokenness, but he sent Jesus as part of a rescue plan. Because of that we can celebrate this season that Jesus came to earth as a baby and live with hope that he will return and make all things new.

Read. Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Jeremiah 33:14-16

Sing. Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Talk it over. Have you ever felt hope? What did it feel like? Why can we have hope in Jesus?

Hope in action. Think of people in your life, community, or school that might need hope. How can you help them know that Jesus brings hope to the world?

Pray. God, we are so grateful that you give us hope! Thank you for not leaving us in the dark. Thank you for sending Jesus to be the light in our darkness. Fill our hearts with hope this Advent season and help us to be a light and hope to the people around us. Amen!

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peace



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

December 5th, 2021

LIGHT THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Tonight we light the candle of peace, thanking God for the peace he promises and praying that we would have the courage to seek peace for others. Let peace light the way.

Reflect. Peace is an inner-calm that we can have no matter what is happening around us. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace and he offers us peace in a world that is sometimes far from peaceful. Because of Jesus, no matter what is happening in our lives, we can ask God to give us peace in our hearts and minds. We can have peace because we are confident that Jesus is with us!

Read. Isaiah 53:5, Luke 2:13-14, Philippians 4:7-8

Sing. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Talk it over. What is peace? What does it feel like? Have you ever prayed to ask God for peace when you were in a tough situation?

Peace in action. Think of someone in your life who needs more peace. How can you share the peace of Christ with them?

Pray. God, we are so grateful for the peace we have in you! We know that true peace is only found in you, would you make us instruments of your peace to a world that needs it? Help us to be peacemakers in our homes and communities.

Love

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through him. - John 3:16-17

December 12th, 2021



LIGHT THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Tonight we light the candle of love, may we be overwhelmed by the love of God. Let us be people who show love to everyone around us. Let love light the way.

Reflect. What do you think of when you hear the word love? Paul describes love as patient, kind, rejoices over truth, always protects, always trusts, and always perseveres." Jesus showed us what it looked like to live a life of love, to lay down our lives for the people around us. We can love others because Jesus first loved us. What love we have been shown!

Read. Ephesians 2:1-9, 1 John 3:1

Sing. Lo, How a Rose E'e Blooming

Talk it over. What does it mean that God shows us love? How can we show love to others?

Love in action. Can you think of someone who needs to feel love? Someone who might need to feel God's love this season? Pick a way to show love to someone this week!

Pray. God we are so grateful for your deep, rescuing love for us. Thank you for loving us so much that you sent your son Jesus so that we would never walk alone. Thank you Jesus for showing us what it looks like to live in love. God, fill us with your love and help us to love others the way you love us! Amen.

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LIGHT THE CANDLE OF JOY

Tonight we light the candle of joy. Joy cannot be purchased or wrapped. God, renew us with your spirit. Let joy light the way.

Reflect. What does joy mean? Joy is a gladness that comes from God no matter what happens in our lives. Joy comes from being with God, which means that we can be joyful even in unhappy moments. We can hold on to God's promise of "great joy" that would come when he sent his son Jesus to bring us life. We can also share this good news of great joy with everyone who needs to know the joy that Jesus promises!

Read. Matthew 2:10-11, Luke 2:7-15

Sing. Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!

Talk it over. After you read Luke 2, think about what the shepherds felt like. Where did their joy come from? What do you think it felt like when the angels appeared? When have you experienced joy?

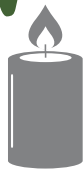
Joy in action. Can you think of someone who needs to know joy? How can you share your joy with them this week?

Pray. God we are so grateful for the unspeakable joy we have in you! Tonight we rejoice when we think about how you came to be with us. We pray that we would find joy in you that would give us strength no matter what we experience, and that it would bubble up so that others might experience it!

Restore our fortunes, Lord. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping will return with songs of joy. - Psalm 126:5-6

December 19th, 2021

Christ



LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot put it out. The love of heaven has come to earth. The call of Christ begins in a baby's cry. Listen and respond. We light the Christ candle, may it light the way.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord. - Luke 2:11

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory. - John 1:14

December 25th, 2021

Reflect. Jesus is our hope. He is our peace. He is our joy. He is love. We celebrate his arrival as a baby and are reminded of the expectant hope we have that he will come again one day and make all things new.

Read. Luke 2:1-40

Sing. Oh Holy Night

Talk it over. What is your favorite part of the Christmas story? Why is it so special for you?

Respond. Today, take time to sing happy birthday to Jesus. Talk about how you want to share his hope, love, joy, and peace in the year to come!

Pray. Jesus, light of the world, you are here! We are full of celebration and praise! Thank you for coming to shine in the darkness. Because of you we can have hope, love, joy, and peace. Help us to give those things away to others!

Advent

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them light has shone! - Isaiah 9:2

The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it! - John 1:5

ADVENT 2021 AT UNITED CHURCH OF COHOES A season of intentional celebration!



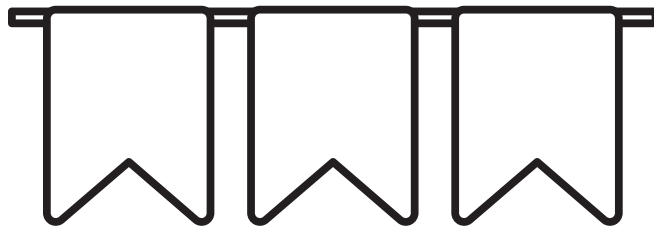
Dear friend,

The Holiday season can bring so many feelings - nostalgia, excitement, overwhelm, grief, happiness... In this season there will be many voices telling you to do more, to create magic, to spend, or buy, or create. But we want to help you remember that you do not need to *do* more this season! Let's remember together that this season is our opportunity to anticipate the arrival of a God who loved us so much he sent his only son to be with us!

Advent means "the coming" or "arrival" and it is a special season where we are invited to be intentional about our time, to prepare our hearts and lives for the exciting arrival of Jesus. This season, let's refuse to give in to the voices that demand we do more or move faster. Let's slow down together and experience advent in a new way.


I am praying that as we walk through this season, you will experience the thrill of hope, overwhelming peace, unspeakable joy, and a love that is overwhelming. Jesus, the light of the world, has entered into our darkness. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Kaitlyn



ADVENT BANNER

- 1 |** **Decorate:** There is no wrong way to decorate this banner. Use whatever you have at home to make it personal. Maybe each piece could be decorated by a different person, or perhaps you want to color each one for the week's theme. You choose!
- 2 |** **Weekly Devotionals/Candle Lighting:** Punch holes in the tops and use the string provided to hang your banner somewhere that you will see it regularly this season.
- 3 |** **Share it with us:** Take a picture and post it on your social media and tag us! Or you can post the picture in the comments of our live candle lighting videos. We want to see how you are celebrating Advent at home!



Peace



Hope



Joy



Love