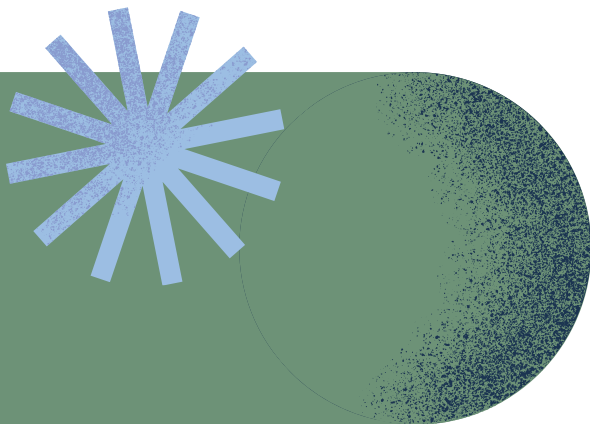




THE WILL TO DREAM

A PERSISTENT COURAGE TO IMAGINE, RESIST, AND
REBUILD A BETTER WORLD



A D V E N T 2 0 2 5



What is Advent?

Advent is a time for preparation, reflection, and hopeful waiting that marks the start of the Christian church year in the season before Christmas.

With the busyness of holiday preparations, practicing our faith during Advent invites us to slow down and take it in. This year, experience the vigilant hope, prophetic peace, unexpected joy, and merciful love of the season!

During this season, we put our faith into practice through:

E M B O D I M E N T

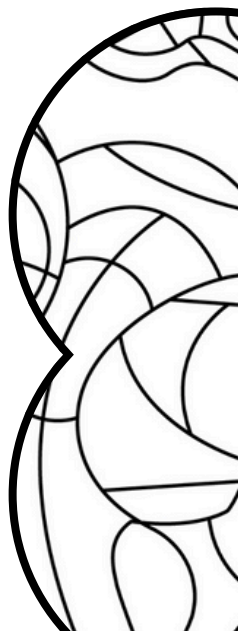
When we are aware of our bodies and the space we inhabit in the world, we are more open to God's presence within us. Practicing embodiment during Advent reminds us to slow down and be present.

A D V O C A C Y

God calls us to care for our neighbors and to seek justice and mercy. Practicing advocacy during Advent reminds us that God's promises are for all people.

J O Y

Our joy is an outward expression of our hope that comes from God. Practicing joy during Advent reminds us look outside of ourselves to see God's presence in the world



An Advent Experience



D R E A M I T . L I V E I T .

The advent season seems to go by in a flash – that is, without carving out time to remember the Jesus story. This Advent Experience will allow you to take in the familiar stories around key moments leading up to the birth of Jesus. Together, we will breathe, pray, reflect, and use our bodies to find joy, meaning, and movement in the season.

JOIN US FOR AN ADVENT EXPERIENCE:

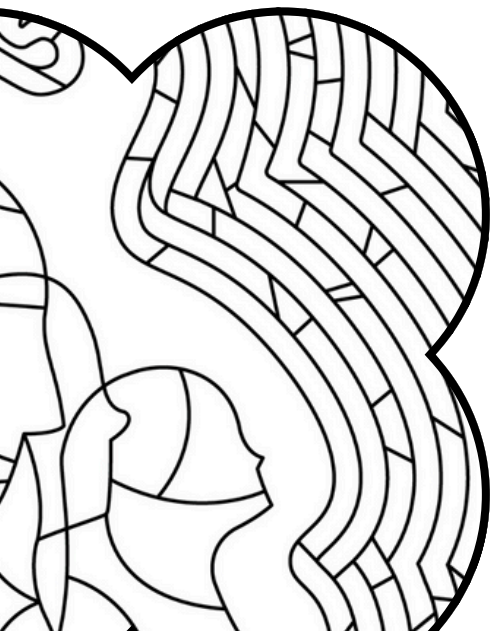
MONDAYS

Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15
10:00 am

OR

WEDNESDAYS

Nov. 19, Dec. 3, 10, 17
4:30, 5:45, 7:00 pm

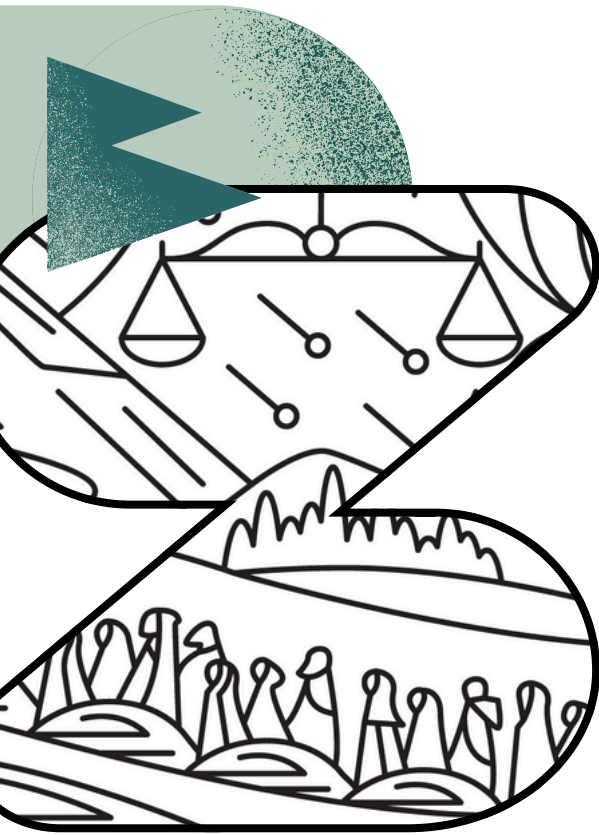


This booklet can be used alone or while gathered with others for spiritual reflection during the Advent season.

**For more resources
and other seasonal
events visit:**

SOTV.ORG/ADVENT





EMBODIMENT

Make tight fists and hold for a few seconds, then release. Now try that with your whole body. Tighten, then release. Breathe deeply.

ADVOCACY

Following Isaiah's lead, "they shall beat their swords into plowshares" write a letter to your elected leaders to advocate for a cause that you care about.

JOY

Make a snowflake from folded paper. Share them with someone or display them somewhere you will see them often to enjoy.

Week 1

VIGILANT HOPE

Isaiah 2:1-5 • Mark 13:24-37 • SSB p.346 "Be Ready" • SSB p.164 "God Brings Peace"

Isaiah dreamed of a time when people would learn God's ways and put them into action. Where do you learn about how God wants us to live and show love?

Where do you see people being mistreated or hurting one another?

Imagine what a better future looks like for people who are hurting. What can you say or do to help?

God of Hope, fill us with compassion and imagination to turn weapons into farming tools, believing peace can grow and a better world is possible. **Amen.**



Week 2

PROPHETIC PEACE

Malachi 3:1-6 • Matthew 3:1-12 • SSB p. 234 "John the Baptist"

EMBODIMENT

Imagine a box. With your finger, trace one side as you breathe in for 4 seconds. At the corner, pause, then trace the next side and breathe out for 4 seconds. Repeat for the last two sides of the box.

ADVOCACY

Peace isn't always quiet. Sometimes, peace means speaking up. What causes or people do you stand up for? What message would you write on a sign to show support?

JOY

Create a peaceful playlist. Think about music that helps you breathe deeply and feel still, strong, or joyful. Then enjoy your playlist with a cup of cocoa or tea!

What does it mean to prepare the way of Jesus?

How does being brave help us bring peace to others?

Why is honesty important when we're trying to make peace?

God of Peace, fill us with courage to tell the truth, share freely, and advocate for others--so all may be safe, seen, and loved.
Amen.

EMBODIMENT

Share with someone in conversation or on social media about something that brings you joy this week. Invite someone else to share their joys too!

ADVOCACY

Advent joy isn't about *pretending* to be happy. It's about remembering that God is with people who are hurting and the promise of a world where things will be made right. Write or draw about something that makes it difficult to feel joy right now.

JOY

Have a dance party! Be silly, unscripted, and let loose wherever you are. Bring on the joy!



What unexpected things were happening to Mary and Elizabeth?

Elizabeth was the first to bless Mary. How can your words bring joy to someone today?

Who helps you feel brave or joyful? How could you be that kind of helper for someone else?

Joyful God, even when it feels impossible, may we boldly share joy with others, proclaiming goodness is real and new things are possible. **Amen.**

Week 3

U N E X P E C T E D J O Y

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 • Luke 1:39-55 • SSB p. 202 "Mary Visits Elizabeth"

EMBODIMENT

Put your fingers on your wrist or neck. Try to feel your heartbeat. Even if you can't feel it, it's still there. Take a few deep breaths, knowing God is here.

ADVOCACY

Reflect on stories of love you have received and given. Maybe you gave food, clothing, or money to someone. Maybe you volunteered. Write a thank you note or draw a picture to share love in action.

JOY

Get a box of individually wrapped candy canes and hot glue them into the shape of a heart, or draw them and cut out. Then tie a string to the top and gift them to a neighbor, a cashier, barista, or someone else!

What kind of love does Zechariah sing about? What does real love look or sound like to you?

How can your voice help someone feel seen and loved today?

When have you felt brave enough to speak up with kindness or truth?

Loving God, like a parent with a child, you cradle us in your strong, steady love and remind us we are enough. May we carry this truth wherever we go, so that all may feel the warmth of your love. **Amen.**

MERCIFUL LOVE

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 • Luke 1:57-80 • SSB p. 208 "Zechariah"

Week 4



Celebrate

CHRISTMAS

EMBODIED PROMISE

Isaiah 9:2-7 • Luke 2:1-20 • SSB p. 212 "Jesus is Born"

Gather together to celebrate with hope,
peace, joy, and love the long awaited birth of
Christ and the dream fulfilled.

DECEMBER 17

Travelers Christmas Eve

7:00 pm

DECEMBER 24

Family Service

10:00 am

Candlelight Services

1:00 pm 2:30 pm

4:00 pm 5:30 pm

7:00 pm 8:30 pm

EPIPHANY

COURAGEOUS DEFIANCE

Exodus 1:8-2:10 • Matthew 2:1-15 • SSB p. 66 "Baby Moses" • SSB p. 218 "Wise Men"

Epiphany reflects on the story of the
visiting Magi (or Wise Men), who
traveled from distant lands to worship
the infant Jesus and signifying that
Jesus is the Savior and light for all
people and all nations.

JANUARY 4

Shepherd's Kids in Worship

8:30, 9:45, 11:00 am

