

# ADVENT 2017 CALENDAR

## FIRST WEEK: HOPE

Light the 1st purple candle, which symbolizes hope. You may offer a word of prayer as well.

*Thank you God for the flame of hope. As we prepare for Christmas, help us to find hope and to share our hope with others.*

Sunday – 11/26	Monday – 11/27	Tuesday – 11/28	Wednesday – 11/29	Thursday – 11/30	Friday – 12/1	Saturday – 12/2
What does the word <b>HOPE</b> mean to you? Light a candle for hope.	Draw a picture of something you <b>hope</b> for.	<b>Hope</b> and waiting are connected. When we hope for something, we often don't have it yet. Think or tell a story of a time when you were waiting and hoping for something. What are you waiting and hoping for right now?	Bring <b>hope</b> to someone who might need it by making or buying a card and sending it to that person. Think of someone who is not feeling well, or someone who doesn't get a lot of visitors.	Tonight when it is dark, go outside and look up at the night sky. Do you see stars or the moon? Remember that God is present in light and in darkness. This is reason for great <b>hope</b> .	Read, reflect on, or retell the story of Luke 1:5-21. It is the story of Elizabeth and Zechariah and the hope they have for the future. What is your favorite part of this story?	Sing or listen to a Christmas carol. Try "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

## SECOND WEEK: PEACE

Light the 1st purple candle (hope), then the 2nd purple candle, which symbolizes peace. You may offer a word of prayer as well.

*Thank you God for the light of peace. As we prepare for Christmas, help us to experience peace and to share peace with others.*

Sunday – 12/3	Monday – 12/4	Tuesday – 12/5	Wednesday – 12/6	Thursday – 12/7	Friday – 12/8	Saturday – 12/9
What does the word <b>PEACE</b> mean to you? Light a candle for peace.	Draw a picture of something that is <b>peaceful</b> .	What does it mean to have <b>peace</b> ? Talk about this today as a family or with a friend.	Share <b>peace</b> with someone. Think of someone you appreciate and write them a note telling what it is you appreciate about them.	Practice creating a <b>peaceful</b> setting where you can listen to holiness around you. After lighting the wreath, silently sit and watch the flame for 2, 5, or 10 minutes.	Read and reflect on Isaiah 2:1-5. Where do you see or experience peace? What would the kind of peace Isaiah is talking about look like today?	Sing or listen to a Christmas carol. Try "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or "Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old."

## THIRD WEEK: LOVE

Light the 1st purple candle (hope), then the 2nd purple candle (peace), and then the 3rd purple candle, which symbolizes love. You may offer a word of prayer as well.

*Thank you God for the light of love. As we prepare for Christmas, help us to feel loved and to share love with others.*

Sunday – 12/10	Monday – 12/11	Tuesday – 12/12	Wednesday – 12/13	Thursday – 12/14	Friday – 12/15	Saturday – 12/16
What does the word <b>LOVE</b> mean to you? Light a candle for love.	Draw a picture of something that you <b>love</b> .	Show <b>love</b> to a neighbor by dropping off a plant, cookies, or some other gift.	The Bible says that "faith, love, and hope" abide, but the greatest is <b>love</b> . What do you think about that?	One of the hardest things the Bible says about <b>love</b> is that we should love our enemies. One way to love our enemies is to pray for them. Close your eyes for 10 seconds and pray for an enemy.	Read, reflect on, or retell the story of Matthew 1:18-24. How do you see love lived out in this story? (Hint: look closely at the meaning of "Emmanuel.") How do you see love of this kind today?	Sing or listen to a Christmas carol. Try "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" or "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

# ADVENT 2017 CALENDAR

## FOURTH WEEK: JOY

Light the 1st purple candle (hope), then the 2nd purple candle (peace), then the 3rd purple candle (love), and then the pink candle, which symbolizes joy. Pink is used this week as a symbol of moving with great anticipation from the quiet of Advent towards the coming story of Christmas, and a light that shines in the world. As you light the wreath, you may offer a word of prayer as well.  
*Thank you God for the light of joy. As we prepare for Christmas, help us to experience joy and to share joy with others.*

Sunday – 12/17	Monday – 12/18	Tuesday – 12/19	Wednesday – 12/20	Thursday – 12/21	Friday – 12/22	Saturday – 12/23
What does the word <b>JOY</b> mean to you? Light a candle for joy.	Draw a picture of something that brings you <b>joy</b> .	Is there a difference between <b>joy</b> and happiness? Talk about this with a friend or your family.	Bring <b>joy</b> to a friend or family by calling them up and singing a Christmas song!	One spiritual practice that leads to <b>joy</b> is gratitude. Write down five things that you are thankful for.	Read, reflect on, or retell the story of Luke 1:26-38. What is your favorite part of this story? What words or phrases jump out to you? Why?	Sing or listen to a Christmas carol. Try “Joy to the World!” or “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice.”

## CHRISTMAS WEEK

CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday – 12/24	CHRISTMAS DAY Monday – 12/25
Light each of the purple and pink candles; and, as you light each one, talk about or remember what they symbolize. How have you seen hope, peace, love, and joy during Advent?	<p>On Christmas we light the white candle at the center of the wreath symbolizing that light shines in the world as we see in the story of Jesus’s birth and the life he will lead.</p> <p>Begin by lighting the purple and pink candles; and, as you light each one, talk about or remember what they symbolize. Then light the white candle at the center. As you light the white candle, you may offer a word of prayer as well.</p> <p><i>Thank you God for the light that shines and reminds us that You came into the world in surprising ways and that You continue to be present in the world today. Just as this light shines, let hope, peace, love, and joy shine through us today.</i></p> <p>Read the first part of John’s gospel and ponder what it means. What does it mean that in Jesus we catch a glimpse that God’s hope shines through, even in the shadowy or hardest of times?</p>

