

ADVENT:

JESUS COMING TO EARTH



Think of a time when you had to wait for something. Maybe it was a birthday, getting a new pet, going to see someone special or go on a special trip. How did you feel while you were waiting? Was it easy to wait?

In our church, we will be celebrating Advent in our worship time and in our kids' classes to get ready for Christmas and Jesus' birthday. Advent means "coming" and is about celebrating that Jesus came to earth as a baby and came to be the Savior of the world.

One part of Advent is using an advent wreath. It is in the shape of a circle which has no beginning or end and reminds us of God's eternal love for us. An Advent wreath has a place for four candles. The candles are lit on each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

The first candle represents HOPE.	(Nov. 28)
The second candle represents PEACE.	(Dec. 5)
The third candle represents JOY.	(Dec. 12)
The fourth candle represents LOVE.	(Dec. 19)

The first Sunday you light the first candle; the second Sunday you light the first and second candle; and by the fourth Sunday, all of the candles are lit. TODAY we light the first candle - HOPE!

ADVENT PAPER CHAIN: Cut apart the strips of the paper chain and put them together in alphabet order. Beginning December 1 with the letter A, remove 1 chain link each day and read it together during a family devotion time as you prepare your hearts for the celebration of the coming of Jesus to earth.