

The background is a dark, textured purple and blue sky with a starry, nebula-like pattern. A bright star with a lens flare is positioned in the center-right. Below the sky is a black silhouette of a city skyline with various domes and minarets. The text 'Advent' is written in a large, white, chalky script font, and '2020' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

Advent

2020

PREPARING OUR HEART FOR THE

King

The heart behind this journal

Christmas 2020 is here, a time many have been waiting for! As a church, we are using the rhythms of Advent to prepare our hearts for King Jesus. The word “Advent” means the arrival of a notable person, thing or event. Although 2020 was quite notable, it doesn’t hold a candle to the arrival of the most notable person of all time, Jesus! Jesus came to bring light to the darkness and fill us with His hope, love, joy and peace. Jesus changes everything.

This journal is filled with Scripture, prayer, activities and songs that will help you focus on the arrival of Jesus.

- Flip through the pages to get a feel for what’s inside.
- Use it on your own or with other members of your family.
- Use every part or just pick and choose the parts that work in your context.

We are praying for you as you prepare your hearts for Him. May He shine brightly in your hearts and homes this year.

With His love,

Your Cheney Faith Center Staff

Christmas with Cheney Faith Center

Christmas Eve December 24th

Outdoor Christmas Eve Candle Light service at Cheney Faith Center 4pm.

What to expect:

A short 30-40 minute gathering with some traditional carols, a Christmas message, and a candle lighting time to light the Christ candle. This service will be outside in our parking lot, so dress for the weather.

There is no need to sign-up for the service, just come with your household and maybe some hot cocoa. Facecoverings are encouraged.

The Sunday after Christmas, December 27th:

The Sunday after Christmas (12.27) we will not be hosting any in-person gatherings at CFC. We will have a 20 minute pre-recorded message and worship time available all day on Youtube, Facebook, and our website.

We will be continuing our 9am general service, and 11am family service the following Sunday, 1.3.21.

Stay connected

Email updates:

Visit our website, cheneyfaithcenter.org, to sign up for our weekly email. Make sure to check your spam/junk folder to ensure delivery.

Text updates:

Text the word CFCCHURCH to the number **43506** to receive text updates about what's happening at CFC.

Social Media/Live Stream/Podcasts: Search Cheney Faith Center through these platforms.



Sunday Gatherings: 9am General Service // 11am Family Service

www.cheneyfaithcenter.org

How to use this journal:

This journal contains four weeks of readings, devotionals, and activities that correspond with the four major words of Advent; Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. This journal does not have daily readings or daily activities. Each week has the same simple layout so you and your household can decide when and how to do these readings and activities as we prepare our hearts for the coming of King Jesus.

Be intentional when you do this on your own, or with the people in your household. Find a rhythm that works and stick with it. If you miss some things during a particular week that is ok. It's about our heart's preparation, not completing every task.

Lighting of Advent candles:

An important feature that we are choosing to do as a church body is the lighting of the Advent candles. This journal is centered around each week's particular candle and the word that the candle represents. Need some Advent candles? We will have candles and an Advent wreath at the church to pick-up for your household as you start your Advent journals.

Each week has a specific candle to be lit, and as the week's progress, you will add the next candle to your candle lighting routine. The candle lighting is best done when you are together with your household at dinner, or together with the CFC fam during our livestream. Each week's title page will include a reminder of what candle to light, as well as a special prayer to recite everytime you light the candles.

Candle order:

Week 1: Hope - Purple Prophet's Candle

- Representing the hope of the coming Messiah.

Week 2: Love - Purple Bethlehem Candle

- Representing that love came down from Heaven in the form of a baby.

Week 3: Joy - Pink Shepherd's Candle

- Representing the joy of the Saviour's birth first heard by the shepherds.

Week 4: Peace - Purple Angel's Candle

- Representing that there is now peace on Earth.

How to use this journal continued...

Memory verse cards:

Each week there is an Advent memory verse card that you can tear out, cut, and either fold as a table decoration, or hang somewhere in your house. Our heart is that we are reminded daily by God's Word to reflect on His hope, love, joy, and peace during this Christmas season.

Family connection point:

Each week's readings will include a family connection point that is designed for family discussions with kids of all ages, as well as other small groups.

Also, go to cheneyfaithcenter.org/kids for additional resources on discipling your kids during this Christmas season.

Additional activities:

At the end of each week are additional activities that you can do as a household or by yourself during this Christmas season. These are designed to bring more impact during your Advent readings as we focus on Jesus and others. Every week there is a special soup recipe that can be used during an Advent candle lighting dinner time or whenever you want a fun special meal.

We have also included a quick YouTube video to explain the process of lighting the candles, as well as an example in how to incorporate the candle lighting in your Advent rhythms.

Scan the QR code or type in the YouTube title to be directed to this video.



**"Advent 2020
Candle lighting demonstration"
Cheney Faith Center**

Week 1
November 29 - December 5

Hope

A prayer to read aloud when lighting your candles.

God, in Your love, You sent Your Son as
The Light in the darkness.
Let the light of Your love shine brightly as we
prepare our hearts for King Jesus

You alone are our hope
You alone are our joy
You alone are our peace

As the flames of these candles brighten in our
home, may your light appear in us and increase
through us to all the earth.
In Jesus name, amen.

Candle:
The Purple Prophet's Candle

Tear this page out and cut out the memory verse card along dotted lines.
You can fold the memory verse to display on a table, or simply hang some where in your house.
The memory verse card is 4x6 so you can use a frame if you want as well.

As the flames of these candles brighten in our home, may your light appear in us and increase
through us to all the earth.
In Jesus name, amen.

You alone are our hope
You alone are our joy
You alone are our peace

God, in your love, you sent your Son as the light in the darkness.
Let the light of your love shine brightly as we prepare our hearts for Jesus

Advent 2020 Prayer



Sermon notes

Sermons are also available on YouTube by searching Cheney Faith Center.

Date:

Speaker:

Big takeaway:

Key verses:

Week 1: 11/29 - 12/5

Hope

Songs of hope

Scan the QR code below to be directed to a curated Spotify playlist centered around this week's theme. We have selected these songs to give another way to prepare our hearts for the coming of King Jesus!

If you don't use Spotify or want to just listen to a few of the songs, we have listed our top 3 songs for this week. Search for these songs on whatever platform you use for music and enjoy.

Song List:

"When hope came down" -

Kari Jobe

"Hope was born on this night" -

Sidewalk Prophets

"Hope is what we crave" -

For King and Country

Hope



Big idea for this week

Romans 15:12-13, (NIV)

12 And again, Isaiah says,

*"The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope."*

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Every year I (Pastor Mark) fry a turkey for Thanksgiving. It's a little bit of a process but I believe it is worth the wait and the effort. Even now as I write this I am anticipating a nice golden brown bird with juices locked in for optimum flavor. The turkey is something I am hoping for, along with mashed potatoes, rolls, gravy and pie (there will be more on the table but I conveniently skip it so I can put more of the good stuff on my plate). Hope is described as something we are waiting for in the future.

The first candle we will light as we celebrate Advent is the Hope candle. It is a reminder of where we place our hope as believers. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, at Christmas and all year through. Our hope is in God as a baby, grown up as a man, dying on a cross for our sin, rising to new life for our eternal freedom and our returning king to set everything in His creation right.

Back to the turkey. When you fry a turkey, you have to wait for the oil to get to about 400 degrees. There have been Thanksgivings when I have been outside freezing, impatient, struggling to keep my feet warm, challenged to keep the oil at the right temperature so the bird cooks well and hoping everything will turn out okay. I froze because I had a hope resident on my taste buds... fried turkey, yum! This is a lot like life. Life can be cold, challenging, struggles that are real and painful and we just hope everything will turn out okay. Jesus came to give you a hope that fills you to overflowing with joy and peace that empowers you to live a bold life in a crazy time.

A couple years ago I put too much oil in the turkey fryer and it overflowed. The oil dripped down the pot at 400 degrees and hit the propane burner and I ended up with a nice little fire. This is the kind of hope Jesus wants to give each of us for Christmas 2020. A hope that is overflowing and catching things on fire for Jesus. The hope of Christ at Christmas is meant to overflow in us touching those around us with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the Jesus we put our hope in. The living God that gives hope when we are lost, hurting and without hope in this world. He fills us to overflowing and makes everyday like Christmas. Let His hope overflow and touch everything around you this Christmas.

Hope reading # 1

Read the following scriptures alone for individual study or with your household.
Scripture: Luke 1:67-80

How does this reading point us to Jesus?

John's ministry stirred up hope for the arrival of the Messiah. What would that arrival mean, according to verse 79?

Family connection point

Can you remember a time when you hoped for something and then saw that hope fulfilled? Share how you felt at this moment with your family. Take a moment to thank Jesus.

Hope reading # 2

Read the following scriptures alone for individual study or with your household.
Scripture: Psalm 62:5-8

How does this reading point us to Jesus?

Jesus is our "Rock" and "Salvation". How do you hope in Him today?

Family connection point

Make a list of things, circumstances, and events your family is hoping for and hang it on the fridge. Pray over this list.

Group reading

With your household, small group, or your “Who are your few” group, read the section of scripture aloud. After reading aloud, discuss a few main points from the reading as well as answer the questions listed below.

Scripture: Romans 5:1-5

How does this reading point us to Jesus?

What do these verses tell us about a Christian who is able to grow stronger in hope through problems and trials?

Additional activities

Sunday Supper Soup

Scan the QR code or type in the URL to be directed to this week's soup recipe

This week's Soup:
Craving Hope and Black
Bean Soup
From: Judy Schroder

URL (case sensitive)
qrco.de/bbp8EU



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- Take some time to decorate your advent wreath. You can add Christmas decorations, greenery, or other items that remind you of the hope, love, joy, and peace Jesus brings.
 - Setup a nativity in your dining room or wherever you eat most meals, but do not place baby Jesus in the manger yet (store him away for a few more weeks). Place the wise men in another room far away from the crèche. Put the shepherds in still another room. When you see the empty manger, ponder the hopes and expectations Jesus embodies.
 - Participate in our church's Food from the Heart ministry by donating food items or delivering a box to a family. Pray over your contribution and ask the Lord to use these dinner boxes to give hope to people in our community.
 - Brainstorm people with whom you can share hope, like the mail carrier, garbage truck driver, or neighbors. What are some specific ways you can share hope with each of these people?
 - Have a family worship time one day this week using the playlist for this week.
 - Rather than hoping for a certain gift this year, would you give that up in order to give hope to someone across the world? Consider giving a gift to those in poverty through a charity like World Vision or Compassion International.

Week 2
December 6 - December 12

Love

A prayer to read aloud when lighting your candles.

God, in Your love, You sent Your Son as
The Light in the darkness.
Let the light of Your love shine brightly as we
prepare our hearts for King Jesus

You alone are our hope
You alone are our joy
You alone are our peace

As the flames of these candles brighten in our
home, may your light appear in us and increase
through us to all the earth.
In Jesus name, amen.

Candle:
The Purple Bethlehem Candle

Tear this page out and cut out the memory verse card along dotted lines.
You can fold the memory verse to display on a table, or simply hang some where in your house.
The memory verse card is 4x6 so you can use a frame if you want as well.

As the flames of these candles brighten in our home, may your light appear in us and increase
through us to all the earth.
In Jesus name, amen.

You alone are our hope
You alone are our joy
You alone are our peace

God, in your love, you sent your Son as the light in the darkness.
Let the light of your love shine brightly as we prepare our hearts for Jesus

Advent 2020 Prayer



Sermon notes

Sermons are also available on YouTube by searching Cheney Faith Center.

Date:

Speaker:

Big takeaway:

Key verses:

Songs of love

Scan the QR code below to be directed to a curated Spotify playlist centered around this week's theme. We have selected these songs to give another way to prepare our hearts for the coming of King Jesus!

If you don't use Spotify or want to just listen to a few of the songs, we have listed our top 3 songs for this week. Search for these songs on whatever platform you use for music and enjoy.

Song List:

"Noel" -

Chris Tomlin / Lauren Daigle

"God so Loved" -

We the Kingdom

"Love came down at Christmas" -

Shawn Colvin

Love



Big idea for this week

John 3:16-17 (NIV)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

The second candle on the Advent wreath represents the overwhelming, never ending, perfect love of God.

John 3:16 tells us the reason Jesus left heaven, was born in a barn or a cave and placed in a trough used to feed animals was because God loved us. Seems like a funny way to show love. Each of us might come up with what we think is a better way to show love to the world. But we would be wrong, God knew what He was doing. He wanted to make sure everyone would be able to connect with God in a real way. Maybe you don't live in a cave, but some do. Maybe you aren't a king, but some are.

God wanted everyone to know that His love was available to them and everyone, in a real tangible way if they believe in this baby and what He would do as a man.

Christmas (and Easter) are great reminders of God's love. A powerful love that changes our lives forever. We celebrate this powerful love at Christmas. I guess the only thing to do is love Him back. Love Him with our all of our heart, all of our soul, all of our mind and all of our strength and love our neighbors too. It's a great privilege to love the world. To show others the love of God in the hope that they will choose to believe in Jesus. This is our mission. To Help others know Jesus and live for Him daily.

Who could you show extra love to this Christmas? Think of someone who might not receive any love if you don't give it to them. Maybe a single person or a widow with no family, a homeless person, or a neighbor that you often see alone. As you light the candle of love, remember how much God loves you and think about someone you could love.

Love reading # 1

Read the following scriptures alone for individual study or with your household.
Scripture: John 15:9-17

How does this reading point us to Jesus?

What kind of love is Jesus calling you to, based on verse 13?

Family connection point

Have there been situations recently where you have been unloving? Talk about what you could have done that would have been loving instead. Ask God for the opportunity to do better next time.

Love reading # 2

Read the following scriptures alone for individual study or with your household.
Scripture: Romans 5:6-10

How does this reading point us to Jesus?

What was it about us, according to verse 8, that made God's love for us even more remarkable? What kinds of people might we be called to love?

Family connection point

What is one of the most loving acts someone has done for you? Thank Jesus for that person and ask for an opportunity to show love in return.

Group reading

With your household, small group, or your “Who are your few” group, read the section of scripture aloud. After reading aloud, discuss a few main points from the reading as well as answer the questions listed below.

Scripture: 1 John 3:11-20

How does this reading point us to Jesus?

Verse 18 tells us not to love with words, but with deeds and truth. How do we do this, based on verses 16-17?

Additional activities

Sunday Supper Soup

Scan the QR code or type in the URL to be directed to this week's soup recipe

This week's Soup:
Zuppa Toscana
with Amore
From: Kristin Aamodt

URL (case sensitive)
qrco.de/bbp8Ec



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- Write a love note to someone today telling them how much God loves them. Deliver it with a smile.
 - Take a look at your nativity scene. Add the animals and move your shepherds and the wise men closer to the manger, but still not in the same room. Reflect on what preparations the wise men must have needed in order to make such a long journey to visit Jesus in Bethlehem.
 - Support a local restaurant and show love to a friend at the same time: order delivery to your neighbor's house for dinner. Make sure to be a messenger of love by including a kind word or bonus tip to the restaurant, driver, and your neighbor. Do someone else's chores as an act of love for them.
 - Put on your pajamas, snuggle under the blankets, and watch Charlie Brown Christmas with family. It streams free on AppleTV Friday through Sunday this week (December 11-13).
 - Set an extra place setting for Jesus at dinner one night this week. Discuss what it would be like to have dinner with Jesus. What would you say to Him if he were sitting with you tonight?

Week 3
December 13 - December 19

Joy

A prayer to read aloud when lighting your candles.

God, in Your love, You sent Your Son as
The Light in the darkness.
Let the light of Your love shine brightly as we
prepare our hearts for King Jesus

You alone are our hope
You alone are our joy
You alone are our peace

As the flames of these candles brighten in our
home, may your light appear in us and increase
through us to all the earth.
In Jesus name, amen.

Candle:
The Pink Shepherd's Candle

Tear this page out and cut out the memory verse card along dotted lines.
You can fold the memory verse to display on a table, or simply hang some where in your house.
The memory verse card is 4x6 so you can use a frame if you want as well.

As the flames of these candles brighten in our home, may your light appear in us and increase
through us to all the earth.
In Jesus name, amen.

You alone are our hope
You alone are our joy
You alone are our peace

God, in your love, you sent your Son as the light in the darkness.
Let the light of your love shine brightly as we prepare our hearts for Jesus

Advent 2020 Prayer



Sermon notes

Sermons are also available on YouTube by searching Cheney Faith Center.

Date:

Speaker:

Big takeaway:

Key verses:

Songs of Joy

Scan the QR code below to be directed to a curated Spotify playlist centered around this week's theme. We have selected these songs to give another way to prepare our hearts for the coming of King Jesus!

If you don't use Spotify or want to just listen to a few of the songs, we have listed our top 3 songs for this week. Search for these songs on whatever platform you use for music and enjoy.

Song List:

"Joy to the World" -

David Crowder Band

"What A Glorious Night" -

Sidewalk Prophets

"Go Tell it on the Mountain" -

Zach Williams

Joy



Big idea for this week

Luke 2:10-11 (NLT)

...but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"

Have you ever worked the night shift at a job that was repetitive? Have you felt a little out of place with society because your job didn't matter as much as other jobs? Have you lost contact with a good friend and wondered if they would ever speak to you again?

This is the context we find ourselves with this section of scripture in Luke chapter 2. For over 400 years God had not spoken to His people about the promised Messiah. The hope and joy of a promised king seemed out of reach and life continued to become repetitive and mundane, especially if you worked in the pooppy sheep fields as a shepherd (yes parents, I said pooppy).

Then in an instant...JOY!!!

Joy unspeakable broke out when God sent His angels to an underrated, night shift working class of people, the shepherds, to proclaim the good news that the Messiah had been born. What may have seemed like a pointless job or people group, became the most important job on the planet as the shepherds became the epicenter of Joy to tell the whole world that Jesus was born.

What is such a comfort now is that we have this joy unspeakable as Christ followers and we still get to tell others about it! We know the good news that Jesus has come, and we know the end of the story...JESUS WINS!!!

So take time this week to express the joy of our salvation in your everyday happenings with your friends, family, or co-workers. Look for the joyful moments, and give thanks to God for our secured hope in Him and that no matter what, we know that Jesus wins.

Joy reading # 1

Read the following scriptures alone for individual study or with your household.
Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

How does this reading point us to Jesus?

The shepherds looked at each other and said, "Let's go!" After they saw that everything was just like the angel had said, what did they do (verse 20)? How can you do the same today?

Family connection point

How did you do being joyful today? Were there some ways you could have done better? Were there some ways you succeeded at sharing joy? Pray for joy in everything you do.

Joy reading # 2

Read the following scriptures alone for individual study or with your household.
Scripture: Psalm 32

How does this reading point us to Jesus?

What did David do in verses 3-5, which made him able to rejoice in verse 11?
Jot down any points of personal application in your life.

Family connection point

Can you recall a time when you were lacking joy? How did you feel during this time? What is something in your life you need to eliminate in order for joy to persevere? Ask God to show you what is not joyful in your life and take a step to remove it.

Group reading

With your household, small group, or your “Who are your few” group, read the section of scripture aloud. After reading aloud, discuss a few main points from the reading as well as answer the questions listed below.

Scripture: Luke 1:39-56

How does this reading point us to Jesus?

Two expectant women meet in these verses, Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist, and Mary the mother of Jesus. What stands out to you about their joy?

Additional activities

Sunday Supper Soup

Scan the QR code or type in the URL to be directed to this week's soup recipe

This week's Soup:
Joyful Irish
Carrot Soup
From: Laura Smedley

URL (case sensitive)
qrco.de/bbp8Eq



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- Make some hot cocoa and go for a car ride around Cheney to look at Christmas lights. Count how many times you find the word JOY on your drive.
 - Gather the family and make some Christmas cookies. Turn on some Christmas music and sing while you decorate. What a joyful way to celebrate Jesus' birth!
 - Move the shepherds of your nativity to the manger scene. Take some time to imagine what joy they must have felt when the angels came to them in the fields singing. Show your family what your face would look like if angels came singing to you!
 - Go sledding with your family! (You might have to pray for snow to make this one happen!)
 - Make some fun holiday masks with whatever craft supplies you have on hand paper plates, ribbons, pipe cleaners, etc. Spread joy by taking silly pictures and send them to family and friends – and us at church!
 - Do you know someone who needs joy right now? Is there something you can do to bring them joy? DO IT!

Week 4
December 20 - December 24

Peace

A prayer to read aloud when lighting your candles.

God, in Your love, You sent Your Son as
The Light in the darkness.
Let the light of Your love shine brightly as we
prepare our hearts for King Jesus

You alone are our hope
You alone are our joy
You alone are our peace

As the flames of these candles brighten in our
home, may your light appear in us and increase
through us to all the earth.
In Jesus name, amen.

Candle:
The Purple Angel's Candle

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through us to all the earth.
In Jesus name, amen.

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You alone are our joy
You alone are our peace

God, in your love, you sent your Son as the light in the darkness.
Let the light of your love shine brightly as we prepare our hearts for Jesus

Advent 2020 Prayer



Sermon notes

Sermons are also available on YouTube by searching Cheney Faith Center.

Date:

Speaker:

Big takeaway:

Key verses:

Songs of peace

Scan the QR code below to be directed to a curated Spotify playlist centered around this week's theme. We have selected these songs to give another way to prepare our hearts for the coming of King Jesus!

If you don't use Spotify or want to just listen to a few of the songs, we have listed our top 3 songs for this week. Search for these songs on whatever platform you use for music and enjoy.

Song List:

- "Silent Night" - Laruen Daigle
- "Peace has Come" - Hillsong Worship
- "We wish you a (Merry, Peaceful, Wonderful Christmas)" - Phil Wickham

Peace



Big idea for this week

Luke 2:14, *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

On the night of Jesus' birth some ordinary men were hanging out with their sheep when they received one of the most extraordinary messages ever heard and got to experience the greatest concert of all time. The angel's message was simple... Peace. The angels weren't talking about a global peace that would miraculously cause everyone to love one another and we would all share our possessions, drive VW vans and wear bell bottoms and tie dye clothing.

God's peace is much deeper and lasts longer than anything we will know this side of heaven. The peace that Jesus brought was peace with God. The instrument of peace was a cross. The peace is personal and it extends to every area of our lives. It's not dependent upon everything being perfect in the world or your life. Jesus' peace is there on our worst days and our most difficult circumstances. It's a peace that can't be taken away by anybody or anything.

Do you have this kind of peace in your life? I hope so, it's why Jesus came and why we celebrate as believers on Christmas.

If you don't know this amazing peace it's simple to receive. It's a gift God wants to give you and it's better than any gift that will be under your tree. All you need to do is believe in Jesus. Jesus as a baby and Jesus as a man. He came as a baby like all of us have but He really came to die on a cross and come back to life to set you free from the problem that is blocking God's peace from being in your life. The ways we think and live that don't please God are the reason Jesus came and they block God's perfect peace from our lives. Christmas may be the best time to start a relationship with Jesus and receive His peace, hope, joy and love. If you want a relationship with Jesus, speak this simple prayer to God:

"Jesus, I'm sorry for all the things I've ever done that didn't please you. I confess that they were wrong. I believe in You. I believe in Your death and Your resurrection from the dead. Please give me your peace and the Holy Spirit to help me live for you all the days of my life"

If you said that prayer today, please tell a friend or a Christian you know and let us know too. Merry Christmas

Peace reading # 1

Read the following scriptures alone for individual study or with your household.
Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7

How does this reading point us to Jesus?

One of the names given to Jesus, the Promised One, is "Prince of Peace" (v.6). Have you asked God to bring peace in your relationship with Him? This is a perfect season to ask for that.

If you are at peace in your relationship with God, are you at peace with how things are in your life today? Might you offer a prayer that He will give you grace and peace for today?

Family connection point

What are some ways you can pass Jesus' peace on to others this Christmas? Pray for God's peaceful spirit to be with you in all you do.

Christmas Eve

We want to invite you to join with the CFC church family on Christmas Eve at our Church property. We are going to gather outside in the parking lot for a simple Christmas Eve service that is centered around the Christ candle. We expect this service to be no more than 40 minutes in length. Dress warm and bring some hot cocoa or coffee as well.

We are encouraging face coverings and social distancing, but there is no need to sign-up for service, simply come to reflect on the birth of Jesus in the culmination of our Advent preparation for the coming of King Jesus.

Service Time: 4pm Location: CFC parking lot

Christ Candle - Christmas Eve at home

On Christmas Eve we will light the final candle in the culmination of our Advent candle lightings. Take a moment to read through the Advent prayer and light every colored candle while taking a moment to reflect on each word that we have studied these past weeks.

Then take a moment to give thanks to God for sending His son and light the Christ candle (white). The Christ candle represents the light that Jesus brings to our world, as referred to in John chapter 1.

At CFC we usually sing "Silent Night" as we light candles during our Christmas Eve service. Sing out that song as you light the candle, or play a version of it through your music platform of choice. Then read through the Christmas story as recorded in the Gospel of Luke chapter 2.

Question to discuss:

How is God's peace different from the world's peace? Ask God to give you His peace and to show it to others.

Christmas Day

Read through John Chapter 1 as listed below in the NLT or use a translation of your choice.

Prologue: Christ, the Eternal Word

1 In the beginning the Word already existed.

*The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.*

2 He existed in the beginning with God.

*3 God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.*

*4 The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.*

*5 The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.*

6 God sent a man, John the Baptist, 7 to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. 8 John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. 9 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

14 So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

15 John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'"

16 From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

Take a moment today to light the Christ candle again on your Advent wreath. Take the other candles out of your wreath to symbolize that the wait is over, Jesus is here!

Additional activities

Sunday Supper Soup

Scan the QR code or type in the URL to be directed to this week's soup recipe

This week's Soup:
Peace Giving
Ratatouille
From: Martha Ming

URL (case sensitive)
qrco.de/bbp8F1



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- Memorize this week's memory verse. When you feel yourself growing impatient, anxious, or unsettled, allow God's word to bring your heart peace.
 - Bring baby Jesus into your nativity scene on Christmas morning. Also add the angels to the scene. Spend a few minutes dwelling on the magnitude, awe, and wonder of Jesus, the best gift of all, coming to earth as a baby. Praise God!
 - Go for a walk through your neighborhood and pray God's peace upon each house you pass.
 - Take a break from your screens, make some tea or cocoa, and sit near a window to watch the snow fall.
 - One evening this week, turn off the lights and TV, light some candles, and have a family worship night singing your favorite Christmas hymns.



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509.235.4282