

*Together
in Advent*

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FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

Together in Advent

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

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Together in Advent

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

ABOUT THE SERIES

With this Together in Advent Family Worship Series, help families come together during this busy time of year to focus more on the reason for the season: Jesus. Each week in the series family members of all generations will gather together in a more informal setting contemplate bring present, sending peace, sharing joy and wrapping in love. A simple order of service, a short sermon, song suggestions and ideas for activities and crafts are included for each week.

- Week 1: Be Present (Malachi 3:1-7): Instead of spending all our time in Advent buying present, we in God's family set aside space to be present for one another, as Christ is coming to be present with us. Families will think of ways to be present for others in Advent.
- Week 2: Send Peace (Micah 5:2-5a): Beyond sending cards this Advent to loved ones this season, we do all we can as the family of God to send peace in all our messages to one another because the Prince of Peace is on his way. Families will make cards that send peace.
- Week 3: Share Joy (Zephaniah 3:14-20): In this time when we share cookies and other treats with one another, we share joy with those around us that they might taste and see that the Lord is good to us through the birth of his Son. Families will write joyful messages to include with cookie deliveries.
- Week 4: Wrap in Love (1 John 4:7-12): In this season of hustle and bustle, we move from wrapping presents to wrapping people in love, as Mary wrapped the Christ Child so lovingly in swaddling clothes. Families will design gift tags that highlight the love of the greatest Gift of all, Jesus.

Together in Advent

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN NOTICES

SERVICE ONE NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for a very special Advent worship series, “Together in Advent,” designed especially for families. In this series we celebrate together as individual families and as the family of God the coming of his Son for our salvation. Each week will focus on a different activity for our “to-do list” that is centered on giving and sharing instead of on materialism. The theme for Week 1 is Be Present. Families will engage in activities and crafts that will help set aside space to be present for one another, as Christ is coming to be present with us.

Service One Bulletin Notice

Welcome to a very special Advent worship series, “Together in Advent,” designed especially for families. In this series we celebrate together as individual families and as the family of God the coming of his Son for our salvation. Each week in the series focuses on a different activity for our “to-do list” that is focused on giving and sharing instead of on materialism. The theme for this service is Be Present. Let the songs, prayers, Scripture readings, conversation starters, video clips, crafts and activities in this worship service make the presence of Christ known to you and to your family of faith.

Together in Advent

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN NOTICES

SERVICE TWO NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for a very special Advent worship series, “Together in Advent,” designed especially for families. In this series we celebrate together as individual families and as the family of God the coming of his Son for our salvation. Each week will focus on a different activity for our “to-do list” that is centered on giving and sharing instead of on materialism. The theme for Week 2 is Send Peace. Families will engage in activities and make crafts to send peace to one another because the Prince of Peace is on his way.

Service Two Bulletin Notice

Welcome to a very special Advent worship series, “Together in Advent,” designed especially for families. In this series we celebrate together as individual families and as the family of God the coming of his Son for our salvation. Each week in the series focuses on a different activity for our “to-do list” that is focused on giving and sharing instead of on materialism. The theme for this service is Send Peace. Let the songs, prayers, Scripture readings, conversation starters, video clips, crafts and activities in this worship service help you to send peace to one another because the Prince of Peace is on his way.

Together in Advent

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN NOTICES

SERVICE THREE NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for a very special Advent worship series, Together in Advent, as we celebrate together as the family of God the coming of his Son for our salvation. Each week in the series will focus on a different activity for our “to-do list” that is centered on giving and sharing instead of on materialism. The theme for Week 3 is Share Joy. Families will engage in activities and make crafts that will help share joy with those around you that they might taste and see that the Lord is good to us through the birth of his Son.

Service Three Bulletin Notice

Welcome to a very special Advent worship series, “Together in Advent,” designed especially for families. In this series we celebrate together as individual families and as the family of God the coming of his Son for our salvation. Each week in the series focuses on a different activity for our “to-do list” that is focused on giving and sharing instead of on materialism. The theme for this service is Share Joy. Let the songs, prayers, Scripture readings, conversation starters, video clips, crafts and activities in this worship service help you share joy with those around you that they might taste and see that the Lord is good to us through the birth of his Son.

Together in Advent

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN NOTICES

SERVICE FOUR NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for a very special Advent worship series, Together in Advent, as we celebrate together as the family of God the coming of his Son for our salvation. Each week in the series will focus on a different activity for our “to-do list” that is centered on giving and sharing instead of on materialism. The theme for Week 4 is Wrap in Love. Families will engage in activities and make crafts that provide ways for you to wrap people in love, as Mary wrapped the Christ Child so lovingly in swaddling clothes

Service Four Bulletin Notice

Welcome to a very special Advent worship series, “Together in Advent,” designed especially for families. In this series we celebrate together as individual families and as the family of God the coming of his Son for our salvation. Each week in the series focuses on a different activity for our “to-do list” that is focused on giving and sharing instead of on materialism. The theme for this service is Share Joy. Let the songs, prayers, Scripture readings, conversation starters, video clips, crafts and activities in this worship service help you find ways to wrap people in love, as Mary wrapped the Christ Child so lovingly in swaddling clothes.

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HOW TO USE THE SERIES

Interest in family ministry has skyrocketed over the past decade, but the concept has been around for a long time. The church has long offered a wide variety of family related ministry programs and services: premarital counseling for engaged couples, marriage retreats, parenting classes, even Sunday school classes that teach children of all ages to love God and obey their parents. As valid as this approach may be in some cases, it is not the only way to conduct family ministry.

Many pastors and church leaders recognize that a more effective family ministry style teaches and guides family members in family-friendly events, where families learn, worship, discuss and laugh together. This approach is what guides the Together in Advent Worship Series. This resource helps family members learn about and experience the incarnation of Jesus together.

An intentionally designed family worship service is a moving and memorable experience. It's not easy to structure worship so that it engages and challenges a wide range of ages, needs and learning styles. This resource is not an all-inclusive answer to family ministry or family worship, but it is a starting point. We hope that the ideas and tools in this series allow you to minister to the families in your church in the most effective way possible.

Each service outline includes liturgical elements, guided activities, music and multimedia.

LITURGICAL ELEMENTS

Call to Worship

We gather in God's name to worship in the joyful context of our renewed relationship with God in Christ.

Prayer

One of the central acts of worship is prayer. This series includes simple pantomiming prayers in which children can participate.

Confession and Absolution

In a culture that avoids talk of sin and guilt, prayers of confession foster honesty and openness in our relationship with God. In this series, the opportunity for Confession and Absolution provide an Advent focus that point us to the forgiveness we receive in Christ.

Scripture Reading and Message

The reading and preaching of God's Word stands at the center of worship. Each Scripture reading and message in this series has a clear focus on Jesus Christ.

Benediction

At the end of worship, people leave with God's blessing. In the benediction, God gives his parting words of grace to his people.

GUIDED ACTIVITIES

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The lighting of Advent candles symbolizes our growing expectation for Christ's coming as the Light of the World. The evergreen of the Advent wreath reminds us that Jesus is life and brings life to us; its circular form reminds us that life in Christ has no end.

Even if you are familiar with the Advent wreath, consider these creative uses in your service:

Each week of Advent, consider moving the wreath closer and closer to the congregation to depict Jesus drawing closer to humanity.

Involve children or teenagers in the lighting of the Advent Wreath.

Provide instructions for families to create Advent wreaths in their homes and encourage them to light the candles before meals and during family devotion times.

Family Advent Crafts

Crafts are a unique, experience-rich addition to family worship. For congregations with lots of children in worship, this element of the outline is especially important.

First and foremost, children love creating things, even if they appear to be simply experts in the art of “mess”! These family Advent crafts provide a first-hand learning experience that is not only appropriate educationally and developmentally, but also provides an element in the worship service that links hand and heart, mind and spirit to God’s truth.

Each Family Advent Craft connects to the weekly theme and is explained in detail in the weekly “Worship Planning Outline.” This year, following the overall theme of “Together in Advent,” each craft reminds us to put activities on our “to-do list” that are centered on giving and sharing instead of on materialism.

Volunteers

To ensure that this element of the service is impact-rich and chaos-light, consider getting some volunteers involved. Appointing an individual or a family as “Family Advent Craft Coordinator” will help make the craft time cohesive, calm and coordinated. Consider asking one person to coordinate all four services or invite families to sign-up to serve for one of the four weeks.

Instructions for the “Family Advent Craft Coordinator”:

Read through instructions for each weekly craft suggestion.

Gather supplies for each weekly craft.

Set up supplies in assigned family craft location.

Be present during the worship service to give instructions and explain the craft.

Coordinate craft clean up after each service.

Family Conversation

You can approach this element in a variety of ways. You may want to use the suggested Family Conversation questions during the sermon or during the family craft time. Wherever you decide to place this element, make it an intentional choice focused on helping families have meaningful

conversation about the service theme. Note that the family conversation questions are intentionally designed to engage a variety of ages.

MUSIC AND MULTIMEDIA

Music Suggestions

The music suggestions for each service are just that, suggestions. You know your congregation best.

Video Suggestions

Did you know that most people remember 85% of what they see and just 15% of what they hear? Image-based learning connects worship participants with important lesson points. Video is an awesome tool for communicating the Gospel and biblical truth in a language that people of all ages appreciate.

Each service outline suggests places for videos to be used. As with the songs, these are just that, suggestions. You know your congregation best.

This resource includes some custom-made videos on the CD for this kit. Other video links are just recommendations connect to the weekly theme or the theme of Advent. If you opt to use these video links, you must purchase them from the appropriate web link (accurate at the time of publication). Generally, these videos cost \$10-\$20 per video and allow nearly unlimited use in your setting.

Here are the points in each worship outline where video is recommended:

1. Before the invocation.

This makes an effective lead-in or launch of the service because it quickly focuses people's attention and visually introduces the thematic focus. There is a different invocation video suggestion for each week. If your budget is tight, consider purchasing and downloading one invocation video and using it for all four weeks as a consistent start.

2. Before the sermon.

This placement can be an effective method to bring focus to a specific Scripture text, theme or event.

3. During songs as "background."

There seems to be a progression when it comes to the presentation of song lyrics for

worship services: from printed lyrics, to projected lyrics, to projected lyrics with still-picture backgrounds, to projected lyrics with video backgrounds. Experimenting with video backgrounds help to make a visual connection with what our ears hear and our lips sing.

In order to use video backgrounds behind your projected song lyrics, you must operate presentation software that allows you to overlay text onto video. There are a number of software packages that do this effectively.

Where to Find Great Videos and Other Content Ideas

Some of the leading media websites for worship videos include:

Worship House Media <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/>

Sermon Spice <http://www.sermonspice.com/>

Bluefish TV http://www.bluefishtv.com/Store/Browse/Downloadable_Video_Illustrations

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Space Design

Your worship space should first and foremost be a reverent and sacred place to worship the coming Christ, but for this series you also want to worship in a space that lends itself to this style of interactive worship.

You know your space options and limitations. You may need to adapt certain elements suggested in this resource.

You may want to consider using an open space with round tables and chairs with an altar at the front. This layout lends itself well to the Family Advent Craft and Family (table) Conversations.

Special attention should be given to visual displays in the worship space. The liturgical colors for Advent are purple or deep blue. Three candles on the Advent wreath are blue or purple, with the pink- or rose-colored candle used for the third week.

Adapt

This resource is not intended to be a perfect fit for all congregations and for all families. Use what works, adapt where needed, and add to these ideas to best meet the needs for the families gathering in your congregation. The design of these services targets families with children but is also appropriate and can be well received by older adults and teenagers. Again, adapt to meet the needs of your congregation.

Recruit Families

Don't rely on one or two people to do all the work. Effective family ministry encourages families to do things together. Invite families to help plan and prepare these worship services. The "Family Advent Craft Coordinator" is a great example.

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SERVICE TWO: SEND PEACE

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SERVICE TWO: SEND PEACE

ORDER OF SERVICE

Video

Invocation

P We make our beginning in the name of the Father who holds us in his peaceful arms, in the name of Jesus who won us peace as he traveled from the manger to the cross, and in the name of the Holy Spirit who writes the gift of peace in our hearts.

C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P Today we light the first two candles on the Advent wreath as we focus on God's gift of peace within us and his command to share it with others.

(The first two purple or blue candles are lit.)

P Hark, the herald angels sing,

C **Glory to the newborn King;**

P Peace on earth and mercy mild,

C **God and sinners reconciled!**

P Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

C **Join the triumph of the skies;**

P With the angelic host proclaim:

C **Christ is born in Bethlehem!**

P Hark! The herald angels sing,

C **Glory to the newborn King!**

Song..... Mendelssohn 77 77 D and refrain

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Opening Prayer

P Father, sin built a wall of hate between you and all of us until you sent your own Son to break that wall on the cross and win us forgiveness and peace. Show us that gift of peace beyond our understanding today and help us to share it with others. In Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**

Sentences for Young Children

(Leader will say lines and perform motions. Children and adults will repeat the words and perform the motions.)

Ⓟ Two bright candles help me see, *(Hold up two fingers.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

Ⓟ Jesus writes a card in me, *(Pantomime “writing” with index finger on palm of other hand.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

Ⓟ Telling all that Jesus’ birth *(Place index finger on lips, then point outward.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

Ⓟ Brings God’s peace to all the earth! *(Cross hands over heart, then open arms wide.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

Ⓟ Two bright candles help me see, *(Hold up two fingers.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

Ⓟ Jesus writes a card in me. *(Pantomime “writing” with index finger on palm of other hand.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

Confession and Absolution

Ⓒ Dear God, we sin every day in many ways. We ignore your gift of peace and spend our time worrying instead of turning to you. We ignore people who need our help. Our words and actions often cause conflict and anger. Turn our hearts to you, forgive us and fill us with your peace.

Ⓟ Because Jesus took our sins upon himself and died in our place on the cross, God forgives all our sins. May God’s peace which passes all understanding fill your hearts and minds with love and joy.

Ⓒ Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

SongNun Komm, der Heiden Heiland 77 77

Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept his word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

Happy birthday, Little King, hear us as we gladly sing.
Send your peace to us on earth as we celebrate your birth.

Then when you at last will come, take us to our glorious home.
I with joy will see your face, shining with your loving grace.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:6

☐ 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.

Song.....Gott Ist Die Liebe 55 54 and refrain

God loves me dearly, grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

I was in slavery, sin, death and darkness,
God's love was working to set me free.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus and set me free.
Therefore, I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Jesus, my Savior, himself did offer,
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Now I will praise you, oh Love Eternal,
Now I will praise you all my life long.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Message

Family Advent Craft

Family Advent Conversation

Offering

Offering Prayer

(After offerings are brought forward, the leader will say lines and perform motions. Children and adults will repeat the words and perform the motions.)

☐ When lazy shepherds slept at night, *(Rest head on prayer hands.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

☐ An angel came in shining light. *(Sparkle jazz hands above head.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

☐ And in that glory like the sun, *(Circle arms above head.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

☐ We knew our Prince of Peace had come. *(Pantomime rocking baby Jesus.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

☐ Please, Jesus, use the gifts we bring, *(Push open palms forward.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

☐ And hear us as we gladly sing. *(Cup hands around mouth.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

☐ We'll run with shepherds, tell our friends *(Run in place.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

☐ About your peace that never ends. *(Pantomime rocking baby Jesus.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

Song..... St. Louis 86 86 76 86

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
Oh, morning stars, together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king and peace to all the earth!

Closing Prayer

P Father, thank you for the gift of peace beyond our understanding. Give us rest in that peace tonight and help us proclaim the birth of the Prince of Peace in all our Advent actions and Christmas greetings. In his name.

C Amen.

Benediction

P Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you. Share the Son's gift of peace with everyone around you.

C The peace of the Lord is with us always. Amen.

Closing Song Stille Nacht 66 88 66

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Together in Advent

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

SERVICE TWO: SEND PEACE

COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** of the following image (purchased by you from shutterstock.com) can be shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/row-mail-boxes-1757727>

- If you wish, show the **Video**: Send Peace.mov, found on the kit CD or digital download.

® *I guess my love for Christmas cards started when I was a child. I can remember my mother opening up the mail after I got home from school. I was fascinated to see how many we received*

each day and from where they'd been sent.

My father was an officer in the army so moving was a part of our lives. By the time I graduated from high school, I'd lived in more places than most people live in a lifetime. So my mother, being the friendly sort, made connections with military wives around the globe.

My job was to take the tape and hang the cards around the door frames in our living room and kitchen. But before I hung the cards, I lingered over them. I read each one.

I watched my mother meticulously write a special message in every card before placing it in its envelope, addressing it and then sending each off from the post office at whatever base we were living near at the time.

She never treated it as a generic activity where any card, with any old message, would suffice. I didn't realize it at the time, but she understood how difficult it was to raise a family moving from base to base. So these cards were an expression of the love and peace she prayed for in each home.

I'm a lot like my mother. No, I didn't marry a colonel. In fact, I never married at all. And no, I didn't spend my life moving. I graduated from college and settled in one community as teacher in that one part of the world.

But I still buy Christmas cards. I pour over each design to make sure they match the prayer and blessing I will personally write for each person on my list. Most of my recipients are not stationed somewhere – though a fair number. But for each one, I pray that they may experience peace in a world where it comes in short supply.

- The **Invocation** is spoken responsively by the pastor or worship leader and the congregation:

☐ We make our beginning in the name of the Father who calls us into his presence, in the name of the Son who lives within us and in the name of the Holy Spirit who grants us faith.

☐ **Amen.**

- The **Lighting of the Advent Wreath** is spoken responsively by the pastor or worship leader and the congregation, and includes the lighting of the candles of the Advent wreath:

☐ Today we light the first two candles on the Advent wreath as we focus on God's gift of peace within us and his command to share it with others.

(The first two purple or blue candles are lit.)

P Hark, the herald angels sing,

C **Glory to the newborn King;**

P Peace on earth and mercy mild,

C **God and sinners reconciled!**

P Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

C **Join the triumph of the skies;**

P With the angelic host proclaim:

C **Christ is born in Bethlehem!**

P Hark! The herald angels sing,

C **Glory to the newborn King!**

- The **Song** is sung by the congregation to the tune Mendelssohn 77 77 D and refrain, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

- The **Opening Prayer** is spoken responsively by the pastor or worship leader and the congregation:

P Father, sin built a wall of hate between you and all of us until you sent your own Son to break that wall on the cross and win us forgiveness and peace. Show us that gift of peace beyond our understanding today and help us to share it with others. In Jesus' name.

C Amen.

- The **Sentences for Young Children** are spoken with motions responsively by the pastor or the worship leader and the congregation. (The words can then be sung to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” if desired.):

(Leader will say lines and perform motions. Children and adults will repeat the words and perform the motions.)

P Two bright candles help me see, *(Hold up two fingers.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

P Jesus writes a card in me, *(Pantomime “writing” with index finger on palm of other hand.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

P Telling all that Jesus’ birth *(Place index finger on lips, then point outward.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

P Brings God’s peace to all the earth! *(Cross hands over heart, then open arms wide.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

P Two bright candles help me see, *(Hold up two fingers.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

P Jesus writes a card in me. *(Pantomime “writing” with index finger on palm of other hand.)*

(Children and adults repeat words and motions.)

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

C Dear God, we sin every day in many ways. We ignore your gift of peace and spend our time worrying instead of turning to you. We ignore people who need our help. Our words and actions often cause conflict and anger. Turn our hearts to you, forgive us and fill us with your peace.

P Because Jesus took our sins upon himself and died in our place on the cross, God forgives all our sins. May God’s peace which passes all understanding fill your hearts and minds with love and joy.

C Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

- The **Song** is sung by the congregation to the tune Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland 77 77, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept his word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

Happy birthday, Little King, hear us as we gladly sing.
Send your peace to us on earth as we celebrate your birth.

Then when you at last will come, take us to our glorious home.
I with joy will see your face, shining with your loving grace.

- The **Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:6** is read by the pastor or other worship leader. This reading could also be spoken by the pastor and an older child or a family taking turns reading phrases. (If you wish to have a child or family read you will want to practice with them before the service.):

P 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.

- The **Song** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gott Ist Die Liebe 55 54 and refrain, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

God loves me dearly, grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

I was in slav'ry, sin, death and darkness,
God's love was working to set me free.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus and set me free.
Therefore, I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Jesus, my Savior, himself did offer,
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Now I will praise you, oh Love Eternal,
Now I will praise you all my life long.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

- The **Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader and another reader in the role of Mrs. Busybody:

Note for the pastor or worship leader: Use a marker to write "Merry Christmas" on a large piece of tagboard. Punch two holes at the top. Tie the ends of a piece of twine in each hole so that you will be able to hang the sign over your neck. Cut a large red heart from construction paper or tagboard. Use a marker to write the word "peace" on the heart. Wrap a blanket around a baby doll to represent baby Jesus. You will need to point to a cross in the room or hold up a small one. At the end of the service you will want to give each child a handmade or purchased child-friendly Christmas card. Inside the card print, "Baby Jesus brings you peace."

- Ⓟ Please pray with me. Dear God, we gather together today to thank you for the wonderful gift of peace you have given us in your Son. Fill our hearts and minds with your Holy Spirit so that we learn the message you have in store for us and gladly share it as we go out into the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

How many of you have finished your Christmas cards? How many of you have already mailed your Christmas cards? Are any of you sharing greetings through social media? Boys and girls, are any of you making your own Christmas cards? That's great! Christmas cards are a wonderful way of sharing greetings at Christmas time. Well, my cards are all done. I'll show you. (*Hang Merry Christmas sign around your neck and hold your arms out wide.*) Merry Christmas, everyone! Do you like my card? I made it all by myself and it didn't take long at all! Now you all have a Christmas card from me. But I want to tell you about a message that is even more special than this one. In 2 Corinthians St. Paul tells us that each one of us is a letter from Jesus. It isn't written with ink, but the Holy Spirit write the message on our hearts. Each one of you is a breathing and walking Christmas card sharing the love of Jesus.

Here is an important message we want to share at Christmas time. (*Choose a little girl to come help you.*) (*Child's name,*) will you come help me for a minute. If I wanted to write a message on (*child's name's*) heart, I would have to do something like this. Hold the heart reading "peace" in front of the child. I have to write a message with a marker and paper. But because (*child's name*) loves Jesus, God's Holy Spirit writes the message inside her. Have you ever

Together in Advent

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

SERVICE TWO: SEND PEACE

FAMILY ADVENT CRAFT: AN ADVENT CHAIN TO GIVE AWAY

*Items needed: string, double-sided sheets of notes (pp. 65-68),
scissors, paper clips, envelopes, stamps*

The Family Advent Craft is to make an Advent Chain to give to someone outside of your family. Each family group will be given a string long enough to hold 24 slips of paper. Each family group will then be given 2 double-sided sheets of paper (see pp. 65-68) with the numbered messages for each day to cut out and put with the string and paper clips. Each slip of numbered paper has an activity written on the back for the non-family member to consider doing on that day as a way of dwelling in peace. Once the numbered notes are cut out, your craft is complete and ready to be put in an envelope along with the string and paperclips to mail to a friend as a way of sending peace to that person. Who will receive the chain you make?

1

6

10

13

17

24

2

5

9

15

18

21



Make a birthday cake/cupcakes for Jesus and share with someone



Take the word Christmas and see how many words you can make



Go to Starbucks, buy a coffee for yourself and then pay for the person's next in line.



Turn off the TV and other electronics and listen to Christmas music



Go to a holiday movie with a friend



Invite friends over for appetizers or dinner



Write a note of appreciation to a friend.



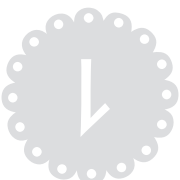
Send out a couple of Christmas cards to people (everyone loves to get mail)



Treat a friend to lunch



Make or buy a Christmas ornament for someone



Go out for cocoa or make cocoa with a friend



Invite friends over to play a game/cards

Creative Communications Sample

3

7

12

14

19

22

4

8

11

16

20

23

Think of a random act of kindness to do for someone else



Read a Christmas story



Sit by the Christmas tree and read Luke 2



Have dinner by candlelight



Create a list of people/things you are thankful for



Make and give a gift to someone



Invite someone over to make a gingerbread house



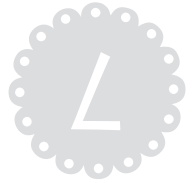
Write a Christmas letter to Jesus – what will be your gifts to Him?



Make some Christmas cookies and give them to someone special



Choose your favorite Christmas movie and invite someone over to watch it



Go shopping and donate food to a food pantry



Put up a Jesus stocking and fill it with loose change to be given to someone in need



Creative Communications Sample

Together in Advent

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

SERVICE TWO: SEND PEACE

FAMILY CONVERSATION

1. What can we write on our Christmas card envelopes to “send peace” to the people who receive them and to the mail carriers?
2. What messages or pictures can we put inside our Christmas cards to “send peace” to someone this season?
3. Who is someone new we can send a Christmas card to this year?

Together in Advent

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

SERVICE FOUR: WRAP IN LOVE MUSIC GUIDE

St. Crispin LM	158-159
Tempus Adest Floridum 76 76 D.....	160-161
Adeste Fideles irregular.....	162-163
Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland 77 77	164-165
Jesus Loves Me 77 77 and refrain	166-167
Contemporary Music Song Suggestions.....	168

Tune.....Jesus Loves Me 77 77 and refrain

The first system of musical notation for 'Jesus Loves Me' is in 2/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a 2/4 time signature, and a first-measure rest. The melody starts in the second measure with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass staff begins with a bass clef, a 2/4 time signature, and a first-measure rest. The bass line starts in the second measure with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble staff starts with a treble clef, a 2/4 time signature, and a first-measure rest. The melody continues with quarter notes D5, E5, and F5. The bass staff starts with a bass clef, a 2/4 time signature, and a first-measure rest. The bass line continues with quarter notes D2, E2, and F2.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble staff starts with a treble clef, a 2/4 time signature, and an 11-measure rest. The melody continues with quarter notes G5, F5, and E5. The bass staff starts with a bass clef, a 2/4 time signature, and an 11-measure rest. The bass line continues with quarter notes G2, F2, and E2.

- The **Closing Song** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Jesus Loves Me 77 77* and refrain, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus love me! Yes, Jesus, loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, baby boy! Came to bring me love and joy.
Stay close by me here on earth as I celebrate your birth!
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus, loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died heaven's gates to open wide
He has washed away my sin, lets his little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Creative
Communications
Sample

Together in Advent

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

SERVICE FOUR: WRAP IN LOVE

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC SONG SUGGESTIONS

- The following song suggestions can be used for a more contemporary worship service in place of the more traditional hymns included in this kit. Rights to use these songs in the service must be purchased by your parish through CCLI or other copyright licensing agencies.

“O Come, O Come” by Mercy Me

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” by Austin Stone Music

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” by Chris Tomlin

“He Shall Reign Forevermore” by Chris Tomlin

“How Great Is Our God” by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash and Jesse Reeves

“My Soul Magnifies the Lord” by Chris Tomlin

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” by Chris Tomlin