

2021

# ADVENT

FAMILY GUIDE



HOPE, JOY, PEACE & LOVE

# CHRISTMAS SEASON IS HERE!

Christmas season is here. Advent means “coming” and it’s over the next four weeks that we remember Jesus’ first coming and anticipate his coming again. Advent teaches us to wait and hope in the promises of Jesus and his deliverance from injustice, brokenness and oppression. So, what exactly do we do during Advent? We prepare and commit ourselves to Christian practices of scripture reading, worship and prayer.

Our hope is that your family will find just a little space in this busy season to make your hearts ready for the coming King. Our staff is praying for you as you celebrate this Advent and Christmas season!

Blessings for your family,  
Pastors Pat & Neely



HOPE, JOY, PEACE & LOVE



# HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE:

**scripture & questions:** Set aside ten minutes at dinner or in the evening once a week to read the passage and answer the questions together.

**prayer:** Recite the included prayer together.

**lighting the candle:** Tradition around practicing Advent includes lighting candles to represent the promises of Christ's birth. Each night you light a new one until the final night when all four are lit.

**activity:** As a family complete the suggested activity together – some may need a few minutes and some may require a little more time.

Our hope is that this guide will help you spend some meaningful moments this advent season with your family.



# HOPE

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 4

Set aside ten minutes one night this week to talk about the promise of Christ's birth bringing HOPE to the world.

**light the advent candle:** As you light the candle say, "We light this candle like God's people before us, we too look forward to the HOPE in the coming Christ."

**scripture & questions:** Isaiah 35:1-10 & Luke 2:21-35

- What do you hope for this Christmas?
- What is something you hope God will do in your life?

**activity:** As a family, wrap a gift for someone outside of your family. As you wrap the gift, talk about the feelings you get when opening a present, and the anticipation for something you hoped for...let this conversation lead you to talk about how the people waited and anticipated the coming of Jesus.

**prayer:** Dear God,

We anticipate the celebration of your Son's birth and we hope for the day when your kingdom will come in fullness. Help us to not let the busyness of this season keep us from living with awareness of how your Son's birth changed everything and may we live in the HOPE of what is yet to come.  
Amen.

# JOY

## DECEMBER 5-11

Set aside ten minutes one night this week to talk about the promise of Christ's birth bringing JOY to the world.

**light the advent candle:** As you light the candle say, "We light this candle like God's people before us, we too look forward to the JOY in the coming Christ."

**scripture & questions:** Isaiah 35:1-10

- What is the difference between joy and happiness?
- What are some things that fill you with joy? Consider making a list of things that bring you/your family joy.

**activity:** We often learn that Joy comes in serving others. As a family, make a care box for someone in your community that is struggling. (Take a trip to a grocery store and fill a box with granola bars, water, socks, etc...)

**prayer:** Dear God,

Today, we rejoice. May we always be on the lookout for ways to help others experience your love and joy.

Prepare our hearts and world to receive you.

Amen.

overLake  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**DECEMBER 10 6-8:00PM**

Gingerbread house making, prizes, treats,  
and christmas fun for everyone!

[occ.org](http://occ.org)

# PEACE

DECEMBER 12-18

Set aside ten minutes one night this week to talk about the promise of Christ's birth bringing PEACE to the world.

**light the advent candle:** As you light the candle say, "We light this candle like God's people before us, we too look forward to the PEACE in the coming Christ."

**scripture & questions:** Isaiah 9:6-7

- Can you recall a time where you felt at peace?
- Why is Jesus called the prince of peace?

**activity:** As a family, look at a map of the world. Play a game where you name a country and you try to find it or point to a country at random and search for some pictures online. Talk together about what it might look like to live in a different culture. Point out places in the world where people don't live in peace or freedom to worship Jesus. Spend a few minutes praying for peace to come to this world.

**prayer:** Below is the prayer of St. Francis

(You could pass the prayer around your family and allow each person to pray 2 lines of the prayer.)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy;  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

# LOVE

DECEMBER 19-25

Set aside ten minutes TODAY to talk about the promise of Christ's birth bringing LOVE to the world.

**light the advent candle:** As you light the candle say, "We light this candle like God's people before us, we too look forward to the LOVE in the coming Christ."

**scripture & questions:** Isaiah 40:1-11 & John 3:16

- How did God show us love?
- How can we show God's love to others?

**activity:** Take a few minutes to cut out paper hearts together as a family. Spend a few minutes writing the names of all the people who have showed you God's love on the hearts. Turn the heart over and write the names of people who in the coming days you want to be active in showing them God's love.

**prayer:** Dear God,

We thank you for your LOVE that came to walk the earth thousands of years ago. We don't deserve and we can't earn your love, but you faithfully LOVE us. Fill our hearts with your love so that we can love those around us.

Amen.

# CHRISTMAS EVE

## CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

FRIDAY DECEMBER 24

4:00, 6:00 & 11:00 PM

   /overlakechurch

[occ.org/christmas](http://occ.org/christmas)