## 2016 Advent Summary, Passages and Schedule

## John 8:12 – “...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

## The practice of Advent in the Church can be traced back to the 5th or 6th century. Advent was honored as a time of fasting and repentance and marked the beginning of the liturgical church year. Advent and the lighting of an additional candle each week, symbolizes the ever-brightening light of the incarnate Christ who made his home among us. The Advent season helps us to be captivated by the true reason for the season and serves as both a reminder of the original waiting done by the Hebrews and the waiting of Christians for Christ’s return.

## Purpose and Prayer topics:

## 1. Strengthen and integrate family worship in ministry

## 2. Build shared memories that embody spiritual reality

## 3. Authentically connect with earlier Church traditions

## Sunday Worship Details:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Passage | Candle Name | Weekly Theme |
| Nov. 27 | Isaiah 9:1-6a | Prophecy | Hope |
| Dec. 4 | Isaiah 9:6b-7 | Bethlehem | Love |
| Dec. 11 | Luke 2:8-11 | Shepherd | Joy |
| Dec. 18 | Luke 2:12-14 | Angel | Peace |

## Daily Family Worship Passages:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Nov. 27-Dec. 3 | Dec. 4-10 | Dec. 11-17 | Dec. 18-24 |
| Sun. | Is. 40:1-5 | Is. 11:1-10 | Luke 1:5-13 | Is. 7:10-14 |
| Mon. | Is. 52:7-10 | Zech. 6:12-13 | Luke 1:14-17 | Luke 1:26-35 |
| Tue. | Is. 40:9-11 | Mic. 5:2-4 | Luke 1:18-25 | Is. 9:2-7 |
| Wed. | Gen. 3:8-15 | Mal. 3:1-6 | Luke 1:39-45 | Mt. 1:18-25 |
| Thu. | Gen. 15:1-6 | John 1:1-8 | Luke 1:46-56 | Luke 2:1-20 |
| Fri. | Deut. 18:15-19 | John 1:9-18 | Luke 1:57-66 | Mt. 2:1-2 |
| Sat. | Ps. 89:1-4 | Mark 1:1-3 | Luke 1:67-80 | Luke 2:21-35 |

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Each family needs to have an Advent wreath with 5 candles, 4 in a circle (3 purple and 1 pink [joy candle]) and 1 in the middle (white—the Christ candle, to be lit on Christmas Eve). Depending on the time available and the age range of the children involved, family worship can also include, but is not limited to, prayer, Bible study and/or discussion and hymn and Christmas carol singing.

Additional notes:

Various denominations have different names and orders for the candles and themes but the basic spirit and purpose remains similar. In the Eastern Orthodox churches, Advent is called the Nativity Fast.