

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Sunday, December 19

Serving our Families and Loved ones at Christmas

During this week's worship, we see how Mary and Elizabeth, two cousins, support and lift each other up. We will be challenged to do that in our own extended families.

Candle Lighting

Reader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's love.

All: Soon we will welcome the beautiful and radical love of God as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.

Reader: We embrace our identity as God's beloved children and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

All: In our homes and in our church, we offer hospitality, welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need, and those who are different from us.

Reader: We demonstrate our care for creation in real and tangible ways through the products we buy, the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

All: Together, we are a sign of God's love for the world.

The candle of love is lit.

Unison Prayer: God of extravagant generosity, in Jesus we discover the depth of your care and the lengths you will go to save us. Forgive us when we ignore those in need, trample your creation and refuse to share all that we receive from you. Teach us to love our neighbours, caring for each other in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



Reading: Luke 1:39-45

This week's challenge: What can you do for your family this week? (*Hint: can you help someone in your family to do something? What are some things that you could do to help out at home or with extended family?)

Advent at St. Andrew's Hespeler November-December 2021

We invite everyone to join us for our Advent celebrations this year in whatever way works for your family – live in the Sanctuary, on Zoom, Facebook Live or, using this booklet, at a time when your family can gather. Families with children will also receive weekly packages for this season to keep in their Faith@Home boxes. Please create an advent wreath in your home (if that is where you'll be) so that you can join us in illuminating the candles each week.

First Sunday in Advent: Sunday, November 28

Hearts Not Weighed Down

This week in worship, we will be talking about how sometimes all of the bad news of the world (and there seems to be so much of it lately) can weigh down our hearts. We will talk about how we can prevent that and what helps us to lift up our hearts in difficult time.

Candle Lighting

Reader: The season of Advent begins, and we celebrate the hope we find in the good news of the Gospel.

All: Through the birth of a tiny and helpless child, God comes to save the world.

Reader: While we watch and wait for Jesus, we join God's mission by bringing grace and mercy to those who need it most.

All: We engage the poor and the poor in spirit, letting Christ's light shine through us.

Reader: We speak words of comfort and love to a world in need of hope and healing, as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

All: Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world.

The candle of hope is lit

Reader: Let us pray:

All: God of surprising grace, when we least expect it you bring fresh new life; and where we feel that all is lost, you bring redemption. Give us courage as we share all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will accomplish through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reading: Luke 21:25-36

This week's activity: making an Advent Candle ring.



Second Sunday in Advent: Sunday, December 5

Share the Light in the Community

This week in worship, Zechariah's song will help us to think about how we can "give light to those who sit in darkness," especially as we become aware of many things that people around us are struggling with.

Candle Lighting

Reader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's peace.

All: Jesus Christ, born the Prince of Peace, calls our community to justice and leads us in the way of peace.

Reader: We call one another to honesty and humility and respond to each other with abundant grace and forgiveness.

All: Our community values relationships. We live in harmony with one another even when we disagree, and strive to glorify God in everything we do.

Reader: Our community longs for unity. We work together with other churches and organizations, and live out God's reconciling love for all the world to see.

All: Together, we are a sign of God's peace in the world.

The candle of peace is lit.

Unison Prayer: God of all people and all nations, you break through the cynicism of our world and lead us like a gentle shepherd. Open our eyes to see the signs of your coming kingdom and inspire us to participate in all you are doing in Jesus' name. Amen.

Reading: Luke 1: 68-79

This week's challenge: find a way to do something in your community to give the Light to someone. (*Hint: could you make cookies for a neighbour or send a card to someone to cheer them up. What else could you do?)



Third Sunday in Advent: Sunday, December 12

Rejoice as we serve together as a Church

John the Baptist challenged the people to work together to do things differently to transform their society. During this week's worship, we will be challenged to do likewise through our church community.

Candle Lighting

Reader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's joy.

All: Knowing that Christ is coming to bring healing and wholeness to the world is a source of delight!

Reader: When we gather for worship it is a celebration, an opportunity to rejoice in all that God is doing among us and beyond us.

All: We welcome our neighbours and celebrate God's goodness.

Reader: Even when we face difficulty and trouble, we sing a song of faith, confident that Jesus is able to redeem our suffering world.

All: Together, we are a sign of God's joy for the world.

The candle of joy is lit.

Unison Prayer: God of transformation, we rejoice that you lift up the lowly and bind up the broken hearted. We marvel at your power to change hearts and lives. Fill us with your Spirit this season so that our voices declare your goodness and our lives proclaim your mercy in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reading: Luke 3: 7-18

This week's challenge: What can you do for your church? This response should be one of joy. (*Hint: what kinds of outreach does our church have that you could help? Helping others brings joy to them and to you.)

