

PICTURE ADVENT

SERMON SERIES IDEAS

How do you #PictureAdvent?

#PictureAdvent 2015 is themed on the names of the candles that together compose the Advent wreath. The first four #pictures and devotions each week are sourced in the four lectionary passages selected for each particular Sunday of Advent during Year C of the lectionary cycle. The remaining three #pictures and devotions each week are complimentary texts to the "candle of focus" that week.

Advent 1 - November 29 - December 5, 2015

HOPE

Daily Texts

Luke 21:25-28, Jeremiah 33:14-16,
John 1:1-2, Psalm 25:5,
Luke 1:26-33, Isaiah 52:7-9,
1 Thessalonians 3:13

Consider This: This week the candle of focus is Hope. Our Advent journey begins with hope – not for the birth of a child but for the return of the King. We remember and celebrate that the Son has been with the Father from the beginning and from the beginning the Father intended the Son to deliver good news and to deliver us. In what form do you hope that the Savior comes? What do you envision? What does your congregation envision? If there is a difference in these visions, what is to be learned and shared to further prepare for the birth of our King?

Advent 2 - December 6-12, 2015

PEACE

Daily Texts

Luke 1:77-79, Malachi 3:2-3,
Luke 3:3-6, Philippians 1:9-11,
Psalm 96:1-3, Hebrews 1:1-3,
John 1:4-5

Consider This: This week the candle of focus is Peace. For the peace our coming Savior brings to take root in our lives our behaviors and appetites must be refined to seek God's will rather than our own. Once we receive and are transformed by Christ's peace, we are then commissioned as heralds of this peace. How is your God calling your congregation to prepare the way for our coming King? How have you and your congregation experienced transformation by Christ and how will that change continue? Identifying this transformation and change on individual, communal, corporate, and systemic levels is powerful and will breathe a greater understanding of Christ's peace for your congregation.

Advent 3 - December 13-19, 2015

LOVE

Daily Texts

Zephaniah 3:14-17, Luke 3:8-14,
Philippians 4:4-6, Luke 3:8-14,
Psalm 98:3, Titus 2:11-14,
Luke 6:38-39

Consider This: This week the candle of focus is Love. Our coming King is God's love made flesh. Encountering God's love in Jesus introduces order to our chaotic lives. God's love makes us glad and grateful, which are not emotions we only experience internally; we experience them externally – physically – as well. Appropriate response to these physical reactions to God's love is more physical actions of God's love. How could your congregation be led to give in love this week? What offering could be made from church family members to other church family members and from church family members to your surrounding community?

Advent 4 - December 20-25, 2015

JOY

Daily Texts

Luke 1:39-45, Micah 5:2-5a,
Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:46-49

Consider This: This week the candle of focus is Joy. Our coming Savior is nearly here! All of the candles are lit, all of the preparations are drawing to a close, and we are ready to celebrate. God through the prophets foretold the Messiah's birth and this week we praise that the promise made is a promise fulfilled; Jesus is the good news! What promises have we made to God? How might this week be used to pursue those promises and take one more step towards fulfilling them? Such decisions add to our personal witness of the lived good news initiated by the birth of our King.