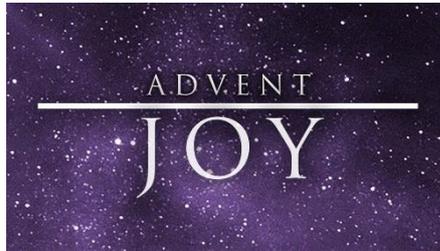


Ministry @Home



These resources are to help equip & enable worship together as "family". They are intentionally intergenerational to allow space, conversation, activity & response together as the family of God. We encourage all ages to be participative & open, being responsive to God and each other.

Gather.....

- As you gather find a place that is comfortable and have the resources ready for the activities, prayer or response times ready.
- Choose 3 members to light the 3 candles (engage all ages)

Opening words of praise with lighting of 3 candles -

I will light a light
in the name of the Maker,
who lit the world
and gave everything life.

I will light a light
in the name of the Son,
who saved the world
and stretched out his hand to me.

I will light a light
in the name of the Spirit,
who is present everywhere in the
world
and gives me strength.

Together:
We will light three lights
for the trinity of love:
God above us,
God beside us,
God beneath us;
The beginning,
The end
and the Everlasting one.

Welcome.....

Song: Joy to the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rjinc8ctg5c>
(can be sung or listened to)

Reflection time: What brings you joy? Share with those who you are gathered with stories of when you felt joyful or happy – what or who was it that gave you that feeling of being joyful/happy. On a piece of paper draw those moments, people, or stories collectively to create a "JOY COLLAGE"



Bible passage: Read together John 1.6-8 & 19-28

AND/OR WATCH for an introduction into John the Baptist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cROnNgHCYQw>

Now is the time to light the first, second & third candle on an advent wreath if you have one or colour the 1st, 2nd & 3rd candle below. As you light or colour the candles you could use the Interactive family prayer on the next sheet. The third candle reminds us that lasting Joy is found in life on earth with Jesus Christ. All other joy is fleeting and does not last very long but the joy of Jesus can and does remain with us; we just need to remind ourselves at times. We are all known and called by God, John the Baptist was called by God to tell people of Jesus who was to come after him. In the other gospels it focuses more on **WHAT** Jesus taught and did, but in John's gospel it focuses more on **WHO** Jesus is. John the Baptist told people about Jesus being the light in a dark world – we are also called to light in a dark world and to share the joy of Jesus.

Interactive Learning.....

This picture will be on the sheet every week during Advent – Today's candle is **JOY** but don't forget to colour the previous 2 candles reminding us of God's HOPE & PEACE



An Interactive Family Advent Prayer

Some families enjoy saying prayers and blessings as they light a candle on the wreath each Sunday. This is an example of an interactive family prayer:

Person 1: Lord, you are the light of the world.

Person 2: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Person 1/3: Heavenly Father, we long for your plan of rescue and redemption to be realized. Give us hearts that see your beauty and wait in hope for you to make all things good and new again.

Person 2/4: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Person 1/5: May your light and love shine brightly in our hearts, spreading hope and peace to those around us.

All: Amen.

Baubles of Grace & Joy

Watch the following video, reflect on the message within it, you could then do the same for your household or for friends and neighbours.

(Please follow the current guidance measures)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHsqQFUTfyU>



Create a Jar of Joy

Decorate an empty jar and encourage people to write on a small length of paper a way in which you can experience joy. These can range from going to the beach together, sharing sweets, making someone a cup of tea, giving a family member a hug, cooking dinner, going out for dinner, walk in the park together etc.



Continue to fill your jar with messages of joy over the next few weeks then in 2021 take out a "joy" & make it happen.

Whilst creating chat about the following questions & Share stories.....

- What is your favourite Christmas tradition & why?
- How does Jesus bring joy to your life?
- How does knowing Jesus change the way you act or treat others?

Reflection & Prayer Time.....

Song: This Little Light of Mine

(can be sung/aloud or listened to)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdsPbE9awKY>

This could also be sung as you prayer walk around your neighbourhood

Song: Light of the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MmRGSEG2LM>

(can be sung/read aloud or listened to)

Encourage members to read silently or aloud their prayers. Other prayers can be said at this time, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**



Celebration....

If any of your members celebrate a birthday within the next week – sing

Happy birthday to you
To Jesus be true
May God's richest blessings
Be showered on you.



Closing.....

The Grace (with "Messy" actions)

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all,
now and evermore. Amen.**

Closing Responses.....

Song: Joy – Rend Collective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDiETOLBvxA>

(can be sung/read aloud or listened to)

From where we are
to where you need us.

Jesus, now lead on!

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you reveal.

Jesus, now lead on!

To make this world
look more like your kingdom,

Jesus, now lead on!

Ask different members to blow out the candles.....until you meet again

Extra Ideas

- https://reflectionary.org/2020/11/30/names-of-jesus-christingle-decorations/?fbclid=IwAR2pEqc98YY_io-0Km-t5PS4hQDgT8tLhfLeiwDMLNRPjjUVptY5-RI1MQE
- Watch together the Christmas Veggie Tales <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6p6-52IHAK>