



Looking Forward to Advent

*Everything you need to know about
Advent at Adventure this year!*

Advent is the season leading up to Christmas when we celebrate Jesus coming into the world – and that season is almost here!

As we look forward to this season, we want to prepare in a way that helps us engage and draw closer to Jesus as much as possible in our everyday lives.

Check out this packet for information about **what Advent is** & **what you can expect** during this season at Adventure.

What is Advent?

Whether this is your first time participating in Advent, or if you've been celebrating this season for your whole life, we think it is important for us to pause and think about this question for a minute.

So... What is Advent?

Advent might be a word you've heard before, but let's start with where the word comes from. The word Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" which means "an approach, a coming, or an arrival." So in regards to this season, Advent is the time of approach leading up to Christmas. It's the time we take to prepare our hearts for Jesus's coming into the world. With each day of the season, we long for Jesus's arrival *and* we get more and more excited for Christmas— the day we celebrate Jesus being born. Not only that, but as we remember Jesus daily we can be reminded of both the longing and excitement we can hold as we look forward to the day He will come again.

How do I practice Advent?

Here at Adventure we are looking forward to a variety of ways to practice Advent both together at church and at home on our own or with our families. There is not a set “right” way to participate in this season, but we do encourage you to take some time on your own or with your family to decide how you might want to participate. There is immense value in honoring what this season is all about and spending some time drawing closer to Jesus through it.

There will be many opportunities to come together at the church (see the *At-Church Opportunities* section), things that you can take home to do on your own or with your family (see the *At-Home Opportunities* section), and different materials you can use to study and grow (see the *Resources* section). While we encourage you to lean in to this season and try some new things, we also don’t want you to feel pressured to do it all! There is a balance: choosing things to participate in that bring connection and spur your growth in relationship with Jesus and others, while not overwhelmed to the point where things just become a check list instead of the intentional opportunity they are meant to be. Ultimately, practice Advent in a way that spurs what this season is supposed to: more hope, peace, joy, love and life in Christ our Savior.

One of the special practices of Advent is lighting candles on an Advent Wreath. Many years ago, people decided to celebrate the birth of Jesus by lighting candles each day during Advent. The light of the candles lit up the darkness the same way Jesus lights up the world with his love and truth. The candles were often placed on a wreath, which is a circle. Circles have no beginning and no end, just like God and his love! He has always been and will always be. Greenery used to decorate the wreath was used to symbolize everlasting life and hope. This tradition is meant to help us look forward to Jesus’s coming in a tangible and interactive way.

At Adventure we participate in lighting the Advent Wreath candles during the main Sunday Service— lighting candles to represent the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus.

We also encourage you to create your own Advent wreath and do this at home. Parents, keep in mind that your kids in classes downstairs don’t have the opportunity to participate in this with the congregation each week, so doing it at home is a cool way to share this tradition with them. For more info on the at-home candle lighting opportunity, see the *Candle Lighting Details* in the *At-Home Opportunities* section later in this packet.

What can I expect during Advent at Adventure?

Our Theme

This Advent season our sermon series theme is called “Behold Him” and everything we are doing will be harkening back to that idea. *The Christmas season is often filled with activity- fun events, gatherings with friends, family traditions, and even frantic shopping for those last-minute gifts. In the midst of all of this busyness, Christ followers remember that this is the season when God Himself came into the world in order to save it. We worship, we sing praise, we reflect and respond to this reality. Yet before we do any of these things, we must first seek to settle our minds and calm our hearts that we might truly behold our Savior. **This Advent season, we seek to put that which is of first importance truly first: appreciating our Savior, embodied in a baby, born to redeem the world. Join us this season as we seek to earnestly Behold Him.***

This theme isn’t just for Sundays, it’s one we have considered as we’ve planned for this season in its entirety. How can we pare back what we are doing so that we can take time and engage well the things we are doing? How can we center ourselves on Him instead of “stuff.” How can we find joy, rest, and wonder throughout a season that also often holds grief, overwhelm or just plain busyness? Our goal in creating opportunities at church and at home to go with our theme are aimed at helping make space for us to just Behold Him as best we can in our every day lives. Join us in this pursuit of Jesus.

At-Church Opportunities

Sunday Service: Join us for Sunday services at 10:00am throughout the Advent season where we will worship with seasonal praise music, learn about what it means to Behold Him, practice meditating in prayer, take time for reflection during the Candle Lighting, and just be devoted together to what God is calling us toward.

Adventure:Equip: While we aren’t doing a specific Equip curriculum for Advent, we are still holding space during this hour for people to join together to do the weekly challenges presented in the take home material. Join us on December 7th, 14th, and/or 21st at 9:00am in the cafe to dig into these challenges alongside others. This is an opportunity to engage these resources in community, and a chance to participate during a time you may already have blocked off during your week! We will have supplies available. If you have any questions about this opportunity, email sam@faithadventure.com.

Special Events & Services:

Decorating Day: Help us to prepare for the season with our Decorating Day at the church on Sunday, November 23rd from 6:00-8:00pm. Many hands make light work and kids and youth are welcome to come and help with their grown ups! A pizza dinner will be provided! If you have questions or are planning to come, please let Sam know at sam@faithadventure.com. (or just show up if you decide last minute!)

Advent Kick-Off: Join us for our Advent Kick-Off, which is a night of worship, tree lighting, cookies and cocoa to usher in the season on Sunday, November 30th at 6:00pm. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the joy and wonder of the season together!

Christmas Eve Services: We close out this season and celebrate the birth of Jesus at our Christmas Eve Services on December 24th.

Two thousand years ago, the most astonishing event in history took place: God sent His own Son into the world to accomplish what we never could. He came to free us from our sins, to rescue us from perishing, and to offer us true and everlasting life in Him. It's almost unbelievable—yet it is the greatest truth the world has ever been given. Join us this Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and behold Him, our Savior, and the salvation He brings!

There will be a special **Kids' Service at 3:00pm** as we walk through the Christmas story in an interactive way.

Our traditional **Candlelight Services will be held at 5:00pm and 7:00pm.**

Advent & Beyond Schedule-At-A-Glance

Decorating Day - Sunday, November 23rd at 6:00pm

Advent Kick-Off - Sunday, November 30th at 6:00pm

Christmas Eve Services - Wednesday, December 24th

3:00pm Special Kids' Service, 5:00pm & 7:00pm Candlelight Services

Breakfast Potluck Service - Sunday, December 28th at 10:00am

Prayer Service - Sunday, January 4th at 10:00am

At-Home Opportunities

Take home Advent Paper Chains + Mini Adventures: In the spirit of creating space to just Behold Jesus, we will be offering Advent Paper Chains to take home and do on your own or with those in your household. Every day there is a paper ring to remove from a chain to countdown toward Christmas and the birth of our Savior. Inside each ring is a small prompt, prayer, or activity to spur our engagement of this season. On each Monday there will also be an optional Mini Adventure that you can participate in at any point during the week, or join us during the Adventure:Equip time slot on Sunday mornings to do those alongside others. These Advent Paper Chains will be available to pick up starting Sunday, November 30th, and the first paper ring to open in the calendar starts on Monday, December 1st. There will be a pdf of these prompts available on our app and website for those needing to access this at home.

Candle Lighting Details: This year we are encouraging you to make your own Advent Wreath to participate in this Activity at home. We will provide a short devotional and prayer for each Sunday which will be available starting Sunday, November 23rd. Pick this up at church or find it on our website or app. Elements to construct your own Advent wreath can be found at local stores or with materials you may already have at home, and can be easily done at a low cost. (*See ideas below*)

Supplies for Advent Wreath:

- Base: charger plate, wood round, cake stand, or wreath with candle holders
- 5 Candles: Traditionally 3 purple candles (for hope, peace, and love), 1 pink candle (for joy), and 1 white candle (for Jesus). You can also just use five of the same white candle.
- Decor of your choice: greenery, berries, poinsettias, jingle bells, ornaments, ribbon, pinecones, etc.

Assembly of Advent Wreath:

- Assemble four candles in a circular shape on your base. Place a white candle in the middle.
- Surround and decorate with greenery and decor of your choice. It's that simple!
- Need ideas? Consider watching this video for inspiration: <http://tiny.cc/ihgv001>

Sunday Candle Lighting Details (*See Candle Lighting Devotional Packet for more info*):

Gather yourself and those who may be with you around your Advent Wreath. Read through the provided devotional and prayer, which will also instruct you on which candle(s) to light. If you don't have the devotional or an Advent wreath, just take a minute to thank God for the hope (Week 1), peace (week 2), joy (week 3), and love (week 4) we find in him. Then on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day thank God for Jesus himself.

Resources

Daily Prayers: At Adventure of Faith, we are a people who believe in the power of prayer. This season's Daily Prayers will be done through the Advent Paper Chains you can pick up at church. Each days prompts will also be posted at this link, or you can access a pdf copy on our website or app.



Weekly Resources: For Life Group Curriculum, Digging Deeper Guides, recordings of the weekly messages and more you can check out our "Current Messages" page on the website, linked here. If you have the Adventure of Faith app, you can also find these resources on the "This Week" tab and the "Messages" tab. There are also paper copies available each week in the main foyer.



Advent Spotify Playlist: As you participate in the Advent Calendar activities, or just want to continue your Advent celebrations, make sure to check out our Advent Spotify Playlist. On it you'll find songs featured in our weekly worship, songs we love, and songs that highlight some of the themes we are digging into this season.



Resource Wall: Our Resource Wall has been updated and is ready to browse! Check out these additional books and online resources that coincide with themes we are studying. Find something you like? Don't forget to scan the QR code attached to that resource to find out more info or where it is available to access or purchase.

Advent Kick-Off Invites

Cut these out, put one on your fridge and give one to a friend!
Need more to hand out? Grab some at the Welcome Center!

