



New Hope Presbyterian Church

#### Introduction

Advent is a season of preparation — a time to make room in our hearts, our homes, and our lives for the coming of Christ. This year's theme, "**Making Room**," invites us to open ourselves to the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings. Each week offers a scripture reading, reflection, and candle lighting liturgy for use in worship or at home. May this Advent season draw you nearer to God and help you make room for Christ in every part of your life.

November 30: Week 1 - Making Room for Hope

**Theme:** John the Baptist

Read Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12

Candle: Hope

#### Reflection:



John's cry in the wilderness urges us to prepare the way for the Lord—to clear away what hinders God's work in us. Making room for hope means trusting that God is doing something new, even when we cannot yet see it. Hope begins when we open our hearts to God's transforming presence. We make room for the hope Christ brings—trusting that His light still shines in the darkness.

- What "clutter" might God be calling me to clear away this Advent?
- What distracts me from prioritizing Christ in my life?
- How can I pave the way for Jesus to shape my words and actions to be more Christlike?
- How can I live as a sign of hope for others?

Notes:			



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December 7: Week 2 - Making Room for Peace

Theme: Mary and Elizabeth Read Scripture: Luke 1:26–45

Candle: Peace



#### Reflection:

When Mary said "yes" to God, peace entered her heart — not the peace of ease, but of trust. Elizabeth's words confirmed God's promise that Mary would give birth to the Messiah, our Lord and Savior. Together, they remind us that peace grows when we encourage one another and have faith in God's plan, even when it disrupts our own. May we make room for peace, trusting God's promises and encouraging one another in faith.

- Where in my life do things seem unsettled and chaotic? Why?
- Where in my life do I need peace? What does peace look like?
- What does it look like to say "yes" to God with courage and trust?
- How can I nurture peace through encouragement this week?

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December 14: Week 3 - Making Room for Joy

Theme: Joseph and the Innkeeper

Read Scriptures: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7

Candle: Joy



### Reflection:

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Joseph's quiet obedience and the innkeeper's small act of hospitality show us that joy often comes through simple faithfulness. God can turn even the smallest open space into a place of divine encounter. Making room for joy means welcoming Christ into the ordinary moments of life. May we make room for joy, celebrating the good news that Christ dwells among us.

- How did God work in the hearts of Joseph and the innkeeper?
- Think of a time when you said no instead of yes to an opportunity. What made you say no?
  What would have happened if Joseph and the innkeeper had responded differently?
- Where might God be asking me to make room for joy?
- How can I bring joy to others through small acts of openness and kindness?

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December 21: Week 4 - Making Room for Love

Theme: The Birth of Christ Read Scripture: Luke 2:1–20

Candle: Love



#### Reflection:

In the stillness of the night, God's love took on flesh and dwelt among us. The manger reminds us that love is humble, generous, and present. Making room for love means letting Christ's love shape how we see and serve others. May we make room for love, welcoming the Savior who came to dwell with us.

- How do I feel and experience God's love?
- · What does the birth of this Christ child mean to you?
- How can I make room for God's love to flow through me this week?
- Who needs to experience Christ's love through me?

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**December 24: Christmas Eve – Making Room for Christ** 

Theme: Shepherds and Angels Read Scripture: Luke 2:8–20

Candle: Christ Candle



### Reflection:

The shepherds, ordinary and overlooked, were the first to hear the angels' song: "Glory to God in the highest!" God's invitation extends to everyone. Making room for Christ means welcoming His presence with awe, gratitude, and joy. May we make room for Christ, the Light of the World. Glory to God in the highest!

### **Reflection Prompt:**

- Why do you think God chose the shepherds to reveal this good news to?
- How does hearing the Christmas story again speak to you in this moment?
- How will I make room for Christ to dwell in me this Christmas?
- Where or how do I need Christ in my life right now?

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December 28: Sunday after Christmas - Making Room for Faithfulness

Theme: Simeon and Anna Read Scripture: Luke 2:21–39



### Reflection:

Simeon and Anna remind us that faithful waiting is holy work. They made room in their hearts for God's promises long before they saw them fulfilled. Making room for faithfulness means trusting that God is always at work, even in seasons of waiting.

- What promises of God am I still holding onto in faith?
- How can I be faithful in the waiting?

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### January 4: Epiphany Sunday – Making Room for Wonder

Theme: The Wise Men

Read Scripture: Matthew 2:1–12



### Reflection:

The Magi journeyed far, following the light that led them to Christ. Their gifts and worship reveal hearts full of wonder and devotion. Making room for wonder means allowing our worship to lead us to generosity, gratitude, and transformation.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

- How is God calling me to seek Jesus more deeply?
- How can I make room for awe and wonder in this new year?
- What gifts of time, presence, resources, spiritual gifts, or love can I offer to Christ this year?

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Lord Jesus, in this season and always, help me to make room for You - in my heart and home, my words and actions. Fill me with Your hope, peace, joy, and love and let my life shine with Your light.

Amen.