

## SERMON NOTES FOR KIDS - November 29, 2020

(For ideas for how to set up church at home for young families, refer to "Growing your Faith Garden" at <http://eastminster.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Growing-Your-Faith-Garden.pdf> )



Good morning! Happy first Sunday of Advent! Are you ready to set some time aside for growing your faith this morning? Find a cozy and comfy spot to sit with your family to watch the online service together, and get out your Sunday basket! Just a note though, if you haven't really 'done' church at home before, be sure to check out the link above so you can set up a Sunday routine to go along with the online service. Push "pause" and read these sermon notes (or have an adult read to you). And then you can colour and think about the lesson, while "your adults" un-pause and listen to the sermon for today. We are really

happy that you are joining us!

Last week we talked about the Church Calendar. Did you colour your calendar and put it on your fridge? Today is the first Sunday in ADVENT, which is the beginning of the church year! That means it is kind of like NEW YEARS day for Christians today! Weird huh?

What does Advent mean? The word actually comes from a latin word that means "Coming" ADVENT is the time of waiting for the coming of Christmas. What do you do at your house during ADVENT? For most families, we think of cardboard chocolate calendars where you open the little door and have a chocolate each day to count down the days until Christmas. Some teachers at school make a large paper chain and they remove a piece of chain for each day we get closer to Christmas. But Advent is so much more than paper chains and chocolate!

At Christmas we celebrate Jesus birthday, and so Advent is the time leading up to the celebration. During Advent, we spend time thinking about what Jesus birth really means to us. We think about the lessons that Jesus taught while he was on earth and we try to hold these things in our hearts. And to help us with this, at church the four Sundays in Advent have different themes, of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love and every week a candle is lit during the service, until all of the candles are lit together with the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve. This week's theme is HOPE.

Have you ever had something that you really looked forward to? Maybe you planned a trip to the big aquarium in Toronto, and you had to wait for that day to come? Maybe to prepare you went to the library and got all the books you could find on marine life and fish and sharks. And maybe you took some time each day to learn more and to look at pictures online and just to think about it. Maybe you sang songs like "Baby Beluga in the deep blue sea", or "Under the Sea". And maybe you marked the days off on the calendar until your

trip. Well, if you did all these things to prepare, you would probably really enjoy the day even more, because you would know so much more about what you were going to see. It would have become a part of you!

Advent is kind of like that too. It is preparing our hearts for Christmas. One of the things we can do to prepare our hearts for Christmas is to read about Advent and Christmas, and set quiet time aside to learn more about Jesus and to think about the hope, peace, joy and love that He wants us to hold in our hearts. And sing songs and get our excitement all revved up for the celebration of Jesus Birth. And then when Christmas comes...it is so wonderful - you feel really in the moment! It makes Christmas more meaningful!

So what does HOPE mean? Sometimes we think hope means "wish". But HOPE is much deeper than just a wish. Hope is something we long for and kind of feel really positive about, something to really look forward to. During Advent we really look forward to Jesus coming into our hearts and homes. Every year we prepare for the story of Jesus birth so we can celebrate that Jesus is in our hearts.

Here is a deep question for you. How can you help someone to find HOPE in their life? Sometimes we don't realize what a BIG difference we can make in another person's life just by remembering them and letting them know they are special! Talk to the adults in your life about who you can share HOPE with this week!

Below is a link to a craft you can have an adult print for you to make your own advent wreath and candles. Maybe you can save this colouring page to colour a candle every week and attach it to this wreath on Sundays! Today, colour the HOPE candle blue or purple and colour the wreath green. Maybe an adult can help you figure out how to make the candle stand up by using a stiff paper or cardboard to support it. Save the other candles for each week of Advent.

[https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2020-10/au\\_activity-advent-wreath-craft.pdf](https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2020-10/au_activity-advent-wreath-craft.pdf)

While your adults listen to the sermon, you can work on this project! And at some point in the online service you will see Pastor David light the candle for HOPE! Then maybe you can draw a picture to put in someone's mailbox to remind them that they are special and remembered.

We would love to see a picture of your family preparing for Christmas. Have an adult send us a note with a picture to display on our Facebook page! [admin@eastminster.ca](mailto:admin@eastminster.ca),

Have a very HOPEFUL week everyone!