

## SERMON NOTES FOR KIDS - December 6, 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 second 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 ADVENT, which is the time of waiting for the celebration of Christmas. And as Christians we are waiting for the time to celebrate Jesus' birth, and we also look forward to the time when Jesus will come again.

Ooh, it is hard to wait for something you are really looking forward to! Do you know that there is a difference between just plain old waiting, and "actively" waiting? Actively waiting means that you are not just sitting on your thumbs and saying "I can't wait, I can't wait". God wants us to DO things to get ready for this amazing celebration. What do you do to get ready? You might get your home ready for Christmas by decorating, or baking cookies, singing Christmas Carols, reading Christmas books, or watching Christmas movies and many people like to wrap presents for their loved ones. But during Advent, God also wants us to take time to prepare our hearts for Christmas. We can do that by thinking about what Jesus birth really means to us. What does it mean? Jesus taught a lot of amazing lessons and showed us a different way of living with compassion and love for others. See if you and the adults in your house can think of some examples of stories in the Bible where Jesus taught these important things. And so, part of actively waiting during Advent involves thinking about how we can be compassionate and show love for others throughout the year.

To help us to "actively" wait, the four Sundays in Advent have different themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Every week a candle is lit during the service, until all of the candles are lit together with the Christ Candle at Christmas. Pastor David is focussing on four different parts of the Christmas Story each week in his sermons this year. We will focus on these more common themes. Last week's theme was HOPE. This week's theme is PEACE.

Peace can mean something different depending on who you ask. Some people think of PEACE as the opposite of war. Some people think of it as just being quiet. What does Peace mean to you? I think real peace is the deep down understanding that God loves us and is watching over us. And we can feel this kind of peace in the middle of really scary or bad times if we focus on God. This is a different kind of peace that we can't find anywhere else! This peace doesn't make bad things stop happening, sometimes bad things just happen. But it just helps us to know that we are not alone and that God will be with us always, in good times and in bad times. This week say a prayer to ask God to help you and your family find peace. And if we are practicing our active advent, we should think of ways that we can help other families find peace this year.

If you didn't do it last 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 PEACE candle blue or purple and colour the wreath green. (And if you didn't already do it last week, colour the HOPE candle blue or purple too) 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 and you can tape it down onto the wreath. Save the other candles for the other weeks 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 PEACE!

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 PEACEFUL week everyone!