



As the Christmas season is upon us, we can easily get entangled with the whirlwind of deadlines, obligations and traditions. It threatens to be less a holy season and more of a chaotic collision. In the midst of this messiness, Advent teaches us to wait, to live in hope and peace, to savor the promised coming of the King. In Advent, we learn to turn away from worldly gain and instead eagerly expect the coming of Jesus. Even more, we learn to imagine and prepare for the full consummation of the kingdom of God because Advent is not just joyful jubilation that Jesus has come...it's that He's coming again.

Beginning November 27, each Sunday will feature a different creative experience in the Gathering Room that fits the morning's theme culminating in a One-Service Sunday on December 25. Join us for these five special Sunday mornings.

Nov 27 – Expectation (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

Hope in things eternal does not disappoint. Just as the Israelites longed to be delivered from exile by the Messiah, so we too anticipate the second coming of the King, Jesus Christ. As we expectantly wait, our hope in things eternal stimulates us to live godly lives.

Advent Creative Experience – an opportunity to sit and make or take home supplies to create Jesse Tree ornaments. This Advent tradition reveals the biblical story through symbols (ornaments) of hope and love.

Dec 4 – Preparation (Isaiah 40:3-5; Luke 3:4-18)

As we wait for King Jesus to come, we should prepare for His arrival. John the Baptist literally prepared the way for the Lord, and left behind for us a unique message to aid our preparation for the coming of the King.

Advent Creative Experience – as an opportunity to put this lesson into practice we present *The Giving Wall*. Visit this wall to find unique ideas for giving the gift of you this Christmas season.

Dec 11 – Imagination (Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 1:26-38)

The complexity and beauty of God's kingdom is often hard to imagine; but, the message of the prophets compels us to open our eyes wide to see the values of the kingdom. As we sense Mary's struggle of imagining something beyond her ability, we too are faced with being faithful to God's dream for his kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

Advent Creative Experience – as we imagine together the wonder of God's kingdom, share a short Scripture/message of hope and love; draw a simple picture that communicates your imagination of the coming kingdom and your trust in King Jesus.

Dec 18 – Jubilation (Luke 1:38-56)

Unspeakable joy...there is nothing quite like it in all the world. Joy is not conditional. It is rooted in something deeper than our earthly circumstances. As Mary was faithful to God's call on her life, she experienced great joy in the Lord. That same joy is available today to those who pursue the King.

Advent Creative Experience – as we consider the people who have brought immense joy into our lives by their example and words, take the time to write them a card of thanksgiving.

Dec 25 – Illumination (John 1:1-14)

Darkness cannot overcome the light; and, the True Light that came into the world gave light to every person that would receive Him. Today, we celebrate King Jesus – the light of the world – born of a virgin, to be the Savior of the world.

Advent Creative Experience – in addition to our annual candlelight vigil, come and enjoy some good fellowship and refreshments at 9:30am prior to our one service that begins at 10:15am.