

advent

JOY AND PEACE



INTRODUCTION TO ADVENT

Together we are going to be discussing advent. The word advent means "the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event". During the Christmas season, we get to do many fun things including celebrating the advent (or arrival) of Jesus as we focus on the themes of HOPE, LOVE, JOY, and PEACE found in the gospel story. **Our hope is that the next two weeks will help you get the most out of the Christmas season.**

Last week we were reminded of two things: Jesus came to the world to bring hope and because of God's great love for us, he sent his Son to save us.

Tonight we will discuss JOY AND PEACE.

How would you define joy? What experiences have brought you joy from the last year?

1 Have a volunteer read **Luke 2:8-12**. God's people were desperately awaiting their Savior's arrival, so when the good news came that Jesus was born, it caused great joy.

- Who is the most joyful person you have ever known?
- Why do you think they were so full of joy?

2 When the world was without hope, God in his love sent his Son to save us and that news should bring us great joy. **Set a timer for 15 seconds. During this time, we will all sit quietly and pray for the person on our left. We will ask God that they will have true joy this week.**

- How do you feel knowing someone just prayed for you to have true joy?

3 Jesus not only brings us true and lasting joy, but he also brings peace to our hearts, minds, lives, and world. Have a volunteer read Luke 2:13-20

- What part of your life needs peace?
- Where in your life is there struggle?
- Is there tension, anger, or bitterness between you and anyone?
- How does the fact that Jesus came to bring peace affect your situation?

RESPOND

How can you be someone who brings the joy and peace of Christ to the places you go and the people you meet this week?

One way you can bring the joy and peace of Christ is through serving families at one of our TPCC Christmas services. Check out how you can make a difference this Christmas with this QR code.



Have a volunteer read this closing prayer.

God, thank you for loving us so much that you sent your son Jesus to bring joy and peace to a dark and restless world. Help us remember true joy and peace come only through Jesus. Give us opportunities to bring your peace and joy to the places we go this week, so other people can feel your presence. Amen.