

Advent Travelers

Each year Godly Play tells a series of stories for Advent. The stories build upon each other, and each Sunday we recall the parts that came before and hear a new part of it. These stories have been broken apart and each box contains the material from one of the stories. There are 5 boxes.

The stories are:

- The Color Purple
- The Prophets and Bethlehem
- The Holy Family
- The Shepherds
- The Wise Men

Box Content - Each box has a felt underlayment, a wood card, wooden figures, a service candle, and a printed service. The prophets story also includes a Bethlehem model in a separate bag. The color purple story is unique in that it does not have a card or figures. All of the materials in the boxes should stay with the box and be transferred to the next family.

Service Literature – Each box has a laminated sheet with a printed service. It begins with the opening prayer we use in Godly Play. Please light the service candle (the tall white one in glass) while saying this prayer and keep it lit until the end. There is a scripture lesson and the story. The story includes lighting candles on the advent wreath. You will be receiving the stories out of order, but please light the candles as appropriate for the week of Advent we are in. There is a hymn, sheet music is provided and an mp3 of piano accompaniment is available on the website www.ccepiscopal.org/ministries/advent/ Each service ends with the Lord's Prayer and a closing prayer written specifically for the lesson. Some versions of the literature omit the text of the Lord's Prayer to save space, but please always include it.

The service can be used however you would like, it can be done as a family as is. Or it could be used in conjunction with a morning or evening prayer if you would like a more robust service. The Service Of Light as found on page 109 in the BCP would be especially appropriate. It could also be broken up with a part of it done each day throughout the week. If needed, a digital version of the BCP is available on our website at www.ccepiscopal.org/worship .

Advent Wreath – When the first box is dropped off we will also be including an Advent wreath. These are extras that were made as a craft project last year. The wreath is yours to keep and does not transfer to the next family. Please use it as indicated in the service.

COVID-19 - There is some risk transferring materials between families. We can take several steps to mitigate that risk. The initial drop off and transfers between families can be contactless, the boxes can be dropped off at the front door. Please sanitize the materials when you pack them up to send on. The materials can be sanitized when they are received and/or they can be quarantined for 4 days before using them. Please wear masks when making or receiving any deliveries.

Logistics – The 1st box will be dropped off at your house on Sunday afternoon Nov 29th. Let us know if you will not be available and other arrangements will be made. The boxes are transferred to the next family on the following Sunday. You will host 4 boxes over 4 weeks. The final transfer will be made at

the final gathering. You will always give and receive your box to the same families each week according to this rotation: Mallery→McElwain→Loran→Bertram→Willet→Mallery

Schedule :

- Nov. 29 – Receive boxes and wreath
- Nov 29 – Dec 6 = Advent I
- Dec 6 – Dec 12 = Advent II
- Dec 13 - Dec 19 =Advent III
- Dec 20 – Dec 24 = Advent IV
- Dec 24 = Christ Eve Final gathering 5pm.

Final Gathering – We will gather together for a small service outside on Dec 24th at 5pm. The boxes will be turned in, and the figures will be transferred to the final family. The gathering is limited to only Godly Play families but will be live streamed. We will be recreating the pageant we typically do on Christmas Eve and everyone is invited to participate.

We will be meeting outside on the Labyrinth, it will be cleared of snow, and there will be a firepit for warmth. The labyrinth will be ringed with candle luminaries. The pageant will be broken into pieces, each family will read the part that describes the figures they are carrying, then they will walk the labyrinth taking that traveler on the final leg of their journey. The Nativity scene will be setup in the center, and they will add their piece to it. We will sing corresponding hymns while they are walking the labyrinth. At the end, we each will have a candle to light from the Christ candle and we will ring the labyrinth and finish by singing Silent Night. There will not be a Eucharist or any other parts of the formal service, just the pageant. The total service should last less than 30 minutes.

Masks will be worn by everyone, even while speaking or singing, and social distance will be kept between families. The kids will not be playing any of the parts, we instead will only be using the wooden figures, no costumes. We will all take a turn as the narrator. No preparation is needed. We will be creating the service together in the moment.

Digital Pageant- We would like to capture moments of the journeys through our homes that we can share with the congregation. Please take pictures, scans, or short videos and send them to Hillary Willet at hillbeawill@hotmail.com. She will be editing them together to create a virtual pageant video we will be releasing to the congregation as a gift from us on Christmas Eve. This could include photos of where the travelers are staying, videos or pictures of your family doing different parts of the service, kids telling the stories, reading the scripture or your family singing the hymn. This could also include any reactions to the story, pictures of the scene or characters, art works, poems, or other writing. You are invited to send as much as you like, but we would like to at least get a submission from each family for each traveler.

It has been a weird, challenging, and difficult year that has shattered so many of our traditions. We look forward to the opportunity to find some beauty and grace through reimagining our journey through Advent and finding new ways to invite Christ into our homes and hearts.