

# HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

RCL: Mark 1:1-8

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## CREATING AN ALTAR SPACE AT HOME

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+ **Blue is the color for Advent**

Find a scrap piece of blue cloth, an old blue shirt, a blue cloth napkin/towel, or even a piece of blue paper and place it in the middle of your kitchen table or coffee table.

+ **Add a small bowl with water**

This is a reminder of our baptism.

+ **Create an Advent wreath to light as you worship**

Each week of Advent, your household will be invited to light one more candle until Christmas Eve

+ **Add a small cross to the space**

This could be a cross from your wall, a necklace charm, or one made from paper or scrap wood.

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## WHO IS THIS FOR?

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+ **Everyone and anyone who lives in your household can gather together.**

Adults, children, college students, and even your pets!

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## SUGGESTIONS AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP AT YOUR TABLE

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+ **Children/Youth could help lead different parts of your worship time.**

They can set up the altar space, read the Bible story, share their own prayers, sing, or color.

+ **You can invite grandparents, grandchildren, cousins, neighbors, friends, etc. to join you for worship using your phone, or Facetime/Skype or another video chat platform.**

Feel free to email them this worship order so they can follow along, too!

+ **If you are a 1-person household** and are unable to call or video chat family or friends, perhaps you could write in a journal as a part of these worship experiences.

+ **Prepare a space that is most comfortable for you.**

You can worship at your kitchen table, coffee table, on the rug in the kids' room, or in your sunroom surrounded by green plants and windows. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, or have a bowl of apple slices or snacks on hand! Worshipping at home gives you the opportunity to sit in your favorite chair or wrap up with your favorite blanket as you read God's word.

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## CREATIVE PLAY IN YOUR HOME

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+ **For households with young children, consider adding a child-safe nativity set to your table**

Encourage children to play with and become familiar with these pieces as you worship.

+ **Create a prayer wall that acts as an Advent Calendar**

As a household, write prayers each day on a piece of paper numbered backwards until Christmas Eve and add them to a prayer wall as a visual reminder of the expectation of Jesus' birth.

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# WORSHIP

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## + ADVENT LITANY +

In this season of waiting, we remember those bound by hunger and thirst and those who long to taste freedom – from want, from fear and from isolation. To God, who frees us, we pray:

**O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.**

In this season of anticipation, we groan with those who long for the banquet at which all will be fed. To God, who welcomes us, we pray:

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh.**

In this season of watching, we walk with the refugees and migrants, and remember our own long journey to the Promised Land. To God, who accompanies us, we pray:

**O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height.**

In this season of winter, we hear the cries of a newborn babe echoing in a stable and are moved by the cries echoing from the streets and alleyways, the shelters and viaducts of our own communities. To God, who wonders with us, we pray:

**O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home.**

In this season of hope, we work for peace, toward a world in which all lives have value. To God, who reconciles us, we pray:

**O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one.**

In this season of expectation, we strive for justice, awaiting the One who brings good news to the poor and sets the captives free. To God, who calls us, we pray:

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer, O Sun of justice, now draw near.**

## + PRAYER +

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## + SCRIPTURE +

+ **Mark 1:1-8**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** John the Baptist (Pages 234-239)

+ **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin App:** Click the 'Bible' tab at the bottom.

## + REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD +

**Option 1:** Click on your congregation's sermon video or live worship link

**Option 2:** Use the following questions for in-home conversation or personal reflection

**Option 3:** Use questions for reflection + **Coloring Sheet** (page 5)

### Questions:

+ What could you tell others about Jesus?

+ The second week of Advent often reflects on peace; how would you define peace? What or who needs God's peace right now?

+ What is one memorable gift you have received? What is one memorable gift you have given?

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## WORSHIP

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### + APOSTLES' CREED +

I believe in God, the Father Almighty  
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.

### + PRAYERS +

With all the people of God, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

- + As we prepare our hearts for Jesus, we remember all those who face war and abuse, displacement and family separation, hunger, unfair treatment or violence of any kind, and we pray for them to experience peace that can only come from God. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + As we continue to feel weary from the global pandemic that has impacted many aspects of our lives, we pray for those who battle severe illness, for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, for health care workers who tend to the physical and mental illnesses caused by this virus, for families who continue to adapt and struggle, for those who face unemployment, and for families and friends who cannot be together this holiday season. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + God of hope, you continue to give us reasons to look forward, to work and serve others, and to find new and creative ways to connect with creation, our neighbors and with you; grant us the power of the Holy Spirit, that we might continue to be inspired and renewed, and strengthen us for the days and weeks ahead. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + Through your generosity, God of grace, you have given us all that we need, and often more; open our eyes to the world around us, to the stories of those we meet, and guide us to respond with the same abundance that you so freely share with us. Lord in your mercy, **AMEN.**
- + *Add your own prayers here...*

Loving God, we give all these prayers to you, trusting in your mercy and grace. **AMEN.**

### + OFFERING +

As people of faith we are called to continue strengthening the ministry of the church, even when we are physically distant. We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift to your congregation or the synod – as the body of Christ we work together to serve our neighbors.

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## WORSHIP

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### + LORD'S PRAYER +

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth, as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever. **AMEN.**

### + BLESSING EACH OTHER +

Using your pointer finger, dip it in the bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or the back of their hand saying, **"You are a beloved child of God."**  
Take turns until all in the household have been blessed.

*+ Text, tune, and arrangements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #12387-S +  
+ Litany from <https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA-AdventActionGuide2020.pdf> +*

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG THOSE WHOM GOD FAVORS.



GOD WITH US

CHAMPION OF PEACE  
MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU. I DO NOT GIVE AS THE WORLD GIVES.