

For Children

PRAY

Dear Jesus, our friend and our Savior, every time we see a Christmas light or a candle flame, remind us that you are the warmest, brightest light of all. You light our way in the dark, and your light will triumph over the darkness when you return. We love you and thank you for being with us every day. AMEN.

WATCH WORDS

HOPE & LIGHT

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Tally how many times you hear these words in the worship service!

READ



The Awesome Super Fantastic Forever Party
Joni Eareckson Tada



The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree
Gloria Houston

DISCUSS

- When it's dark at night, how do you know that the sun will rise in the morning?
- Do you remember a time when you really wanted something to happen? Did anything make you think that it would happen? Did anything make you think that it wouldn't?
- When God promises something, how do you know he will keep his promise?

Advent Week 2 HOPE

*“But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD,
I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.”
Micah 7:7*



Artwork by Charlotte K. (Age 9)

The painting on the next page tells a profound story. We see the shepherds and the magi gazing up at the star of Bethlehem. Perhaps more remarkably, we see the heavenly host bowing toward the same star. Here the artist has depicted the full spectrum of created beings—those on the margins of society, the learned and the wise, all the way to the angels themselves—utterly fixated on the light that represents the glory of God made human. Christ's birth sets off a chain of divine events that changes everything—his presence with us and sacrifice for us on the cross, his triumph over death through the resurrection, his glorious ascension. These happenings usher in a new reality in which we, as adopted sons and daughters, have God's own Spirit living in us. And while all these things are true, they are still only part of the full picture. If Christ's coming is not put in the context of creation's ultimate trajectory, what hope does it give us? What hope for the poor, what hope for the downcast? What promise has all of creation been given, from the lowliest shepherd to the grandest angel, that we who are in Christ can cling to with every fiber of our beings? That Jesus will return. He will unite Heaven and Earth. He will make all things new.

LOOK



“Star of Bethlehem”
Elihu Vedder, 1880
Oil on Canvas

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
O Eternal King, even in the midst of the shadows around us, your justice is dawning.
Darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you, and nations shall come to your light.
Fill us with wonder at your coming, and let our celebrations in this season
spread new hope to a weary world. We long for your return when all will be set right.
By your Spirit, teach us to embody your love as we eagerly await that day,
when the sun shall no longer be our light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon give light to us by night.
For the LORD will be our everlasting light, and our God will be our glory.*

(adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook* and Isaiah 60)

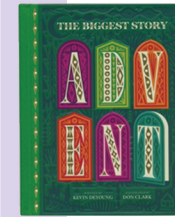
PRAY

READ

“Judah’s Lion”
Keith Patman

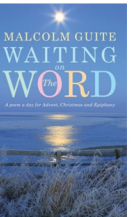
Where does the lion, Judah’s golden lion walk?
Stealthy under star by winter night his soft paws stalk.
Out on lonely hills a cold wind howls and darkness scowls;
shepherds shiver—danger in the dark!—some wild beast prowls.
Suddenly up springs a light; a voice rings like a bell:
“Joy, O men of Judah! Come and see! Noel! Noel!”
Where lies Judah’s longed-for lion? “Come and see the sight!
Fear not—your golden one is couched among the lambs tonight.”

Check out the curated display of Advent books at our church library.

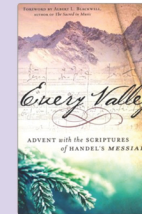


The Biggest Story Advent Book:
25 Lift-the-Flap Devotions for Families
Kevin DeYoung

Waiting on the Word: A Poem a Day
for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany
Malcolm Guite



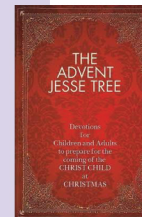
Every Valley: Advent with the
Scriptures of Handel’s Messiah



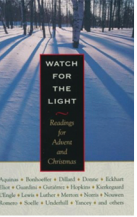
O Come, O Come Emmanuel: A Liturgy for
Daily Worship from Advent to Epiphany
Jonathan Gibson



The Advent Jesse Tree: Devotions for
Children and Adults to Prepare for the
Coming of the Christ Child at Christmas
Dean Meador Lambert



Watch for the Light: Readings for
Advent and Christmas



LISTEN



“Hail to the Lord’s
Anointed”
Sandra McCracken



“Jesus Christ,
the Apple Tree”
National Lutheran Choir