

Family Advent Liturgy 2017



Christmas Day

Candle: The Candle for Christmas Day is the white candle in the centre.

Sing: [“Away in a Manger”](#)

Reader: Merry Christmas! We are joining together to light the last candle. Let’s re-light the other four and remember all the messages as we waited.

Child: (Relight first purple/blue candle) On the first Sunday of Advent we lit a candle to remind us to get our hearts ready for the coming of Jesus.

Child: (Relight second blue/purple candle) On the second Sunday we lit the candle of the Way reminding us that Jesus is the Way.

Child: (Relight third ‘pink’ candle) We lit the third candle to remind us that God brings us joy.

Child: (Relight the fourth candle) We lit this candle on the fourth Sunday in Advent to remind us of God's gift of peace.

Reader: Today's candle completes the candle lighting. This white candle reminds us of Jesus' birth. It reminds us that He will come again, and it reminds us that Jesus is our light and our life.

Reader: As you think about all the gifts you have opened today, all the gifts we have as a family, remember the greatest gift is Jesus who gives us life, love, and hope.



Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 1-20 (ERV)

The Birth of Jesus Christ

2 It was about that same time that Augustus Caesar sent out an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that everyone's name must be put on a list. **2** This was the first counting of all the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 Everyone traveled to their own hometowns to have their name put on the list.

4 So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. It was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. **5** Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (She was now pregnant.) **6** While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. **7** She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a box where cattle are fed. She put him there because the guest room was full.

Some Shepherds Hear About Jesus

8 That night, some shepherds were out in the fields near Bethlehem watching their sheep. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord was shining

around them. The shepherds were very afraid. **10** The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid. I have some very good news for you—news that will make everyone happy. **11** Today your Savior was born in David’s town. He is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box.”

13 Then a huge army of angels from heaven joined the first angel, and they were all praising God, saying,

14 “Praise God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please him.”

15 The angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this great event the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they went running and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the feeding box. **17** When they saw the baby, they told what the angels said about this child. **18** Everyone was surprised when they heard what the shepherds told them. **19** Mary continued to think about these things, trying to understand them.

20 The shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.

Read Scripture the first time, then ask:

What word or sentence stands out to you?

(allow responses)

Read Scripture a second time, then ask:

What do you hear Jesus/God saying to you in this story? (allow responses)

Read Scripture a third time, then ask:

What do you think the Holy Spirit is asking you/us to do in this story? (allow responses)

Sing: ["Joy to the World"](#)

Prayer time: Thank God for all the things that make you joy-filled. Ask God to show you all the ways He has given of His abundant love in our lives. Thank God for giving Himself for us and for being with us always.



Joseph Paelinck (Belgian, 1781 - 1839), *The Holy Family*, Belgium, J. Paul Getty Museum