



## Advent Worship Service for Families

### Monday, December 25, 2017 — Christmas Day

*Light the four candles on your wreath, plus the center white candle (which is called the Christ candle) and read together the following meditation:*

**First Reader:** Today is Christmas. Today, we light the four purple candles. (OR three purple candles and the pink candle). We also light the center white candle. The first Sunday, we lit the candle of hope. The second Sunday, we lit the candle of love. The third Sunday, we lit the candle of joy. The fourth Sunday, we lit the candle of peace. Today, we also light the center candle. This candle represents Jesus. When we light this candle, we remember Jesus' birth. Our waiting has ended.

*(Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles. Light the center white candle.)*

**All:** Sing or read "O Come, All Ye Faithful," *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 234.

**Second Reader:** When we look at the center candle, we remember that God sent Jesus to give hope, peace, joy, and love to all people. Outside of Bethlehem, the shepherds saw a great light and heard the voices of angels. They traveled to the manger and saw the baby Jesus.

Far away from Bethlehem, wise men saw a star in the sky. They followed the star and were filled with joy when they found Jesus. They remind us that the gift of Jesus was not just for the people in one place, but for all people.

**First Reader:** Read **Matthew 2:1-12**.

**Discussion:** It's amazing to think of these persistent travelers who were determined to find Jesus. They traveled with hope and faith in the promise that they would find the new king. Who are the people in our world who need to know of God's promises?

What are our hopes on this Christmas Day for our world?

How can we help people remember God's promises after Christmas Day is over?

Name one thing you are willing to do in the days following Christmas that will help you and others remember God's promises.

**Prayer:**

Dear God: Thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you, God, for sending Jesus for ALL people, not just those in one place at one time. On this Christmas Day, help us remember and rejoice again because Jesus was born. May we live every day remembering your love and care and showing that love and care to others. Amen.