

Advent Schedule 2024



YOU ARE A BLESSING

Sunday, December 1 at 10am: First Sunday of Advent (Isaiah 43:1-7)



WE CAN'T GO ALONE

Sunday, December 8 at 10am: Second Sunday of Advent (Ruth 1; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)



DO THE GOOD THAT IS YOURS TO DO

Sunday, December 15 at 10am: Third Sunday of Advent (Luke 3:7-16)



HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK

Sunday, December 22 at 10am: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:46-55)

AND Longest Night at 7:30pm: This service will be streamed live.



LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve (Luke 2:1-20; Isaiah 9:6)

4pm: Family worship service

8pm: Music prelude begins at 7:30pm; this service will be streamed live and 10:30pm: Worship will offer communion



DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH

Sunday, December 29 at 10am: First Sunday after Christmas (Luke 2:10; Matthew 2:10; Isaiah 9:2-3)



THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT

Sunday, January 5 at 10am: Epiphany (Matthew 2:1-12; Isaiah 43:16-21)



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ADVENT PHOTO-A-DAY CHALLENGE @sanctifiedart

For each day of Advent, we invite you to take a photo inspired by the word of the day. Share your daily photos on social media along with the words that inspired them.

DEC.1 BEGIN	DEC.2 BLESS	DEC.3 COURAGE	DEC.4 POSSIBILITY	DEC.5 REMEMBER
DEC.6 MARVEL	DEC.7 GO	DEC.8 TOGETHER	DEC.9 EMBRACE	DEC.10 JOURNEY
DEC.11 PEACEMAKER	DEC.12 CONNECTION	DEC.13 ENOUGH	DEC.14 GOODNESS	DEC.15 WORTHY
DEC.16 REPAIR	DEC.17 MAGNIFY	DEC.18 MERCY	DEC.19 DREAM	DEC.20 HOPE
DEC.21 RISK	DEC.22 GRACE	DEC.23 JOY	DEC.24 LOVE	DEC.25 AMAZEMENT

Words for the Beginning Advent Photo-A-Day Challenge

Instructions: For each day, think about something in your life that is inspired by the word and snap a photo. Submit your photo (also include the word in your email) to office@FaithWorksHere.com and it will be shared with the Faith congregation as part of a slideshow presentation at the beginning of worship during Advent season.

Dec. 1 Begin

To begin, begin. – William Wordsworth, poet

First steps are often the most important. No matter where the journey leads, or what the future holds, those first steps can hold magic in them. Claiming a spirit of anticipation, what will you begin, this Advent?

Dec. 2 Bless

“To pronounce a blessing on something is to see it from the divine perspective. To pronounce a blessing is to participate in God’s own initiative. To pronounce a blessing is to share God’s own audacity.” – Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor, theologian

Our lives are brimming with blessings large and small, unexpected and life changing. These blessings often evoke gratitude. Conspire with God; how might you be a blessing this week?

Dec. 3 Courage

“Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one’s courage.” – Anais Nin, author and diarist

“Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway” – John Wayne, cowboy actor

Courage often involves being afraid and acting anyway. It’s daring, strength, risk and trust all wrapped up in hope and determination. Where have you noticed courage?

Dec. 4 Possibility

“I dwell in possibility.” – Emily Dickinson, poet

Risk calls us outside our comfort zone, asks us to shake off our timidity, and take a leap of faith. But with risk comes consequence. What is your threshold for risk? What small risk have you been waiting to take?

Dec. 22 Grace

“I know nothing, except what everyone knows. If there when Grace dances, I should dance.” – W.H. Auden, poet

The qualities of grace and unconditional love are kindred. Both offer healing, acceptance and unabashed belonging. Why is grace an important part of your faith? How have you experienced God’s grace recently?

Dec. 23 Joy

“Do anything, but let it produce joy.” – Walt Whitman

Joy is cartwheels and fireworks; belly laughs and exhilaration. Joy is also, theologians say, the beating heart of the universe, experienced when we behold God in everything. How will you “scatter joy” this Advent?

Dec. 24 Love

“Where there is love there is life.” – Mahatma Gandhi, social reformer

In the coming of the Christ child, we begin to know the fullness of God’s love. How is God’s love brightening your day and how will you express God’s love to others this Christmas Eve?

Dec. 25 Amazement

“To be amazed means to behold the world and, like God after the sixth day of creation, to be able to say again or for the first time, “Look! How very good it all is!” – Dorothy Sölle, theologian

Christ our Savior is born! Today, we celebrate miracles.

Dec. 17 Magnify

“Love ... is the work of mirroring and magnifying each other's light.” – James Baldwin, poet and activist

Enlarging, enhancing and expanding the things that make life worth living is important and noble work. What does it mean to magnify beauty, magnify wisdom, magnify love?

Dec. 18 Mercy

“I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.” – Abraham Lincoln, US President

Mercy requires a generosity of spirit. Practicing loving kindness is one way of extending mercy. What advice would you give to the children in your life about practicing mercy?

Dec. 19 Dream

“A dream is the bearer of a new possibility, the enlarged horizon, the great hope.” – Howard Thurman, theologian
“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

God blesses us with the gift of dreams. God also offers us the strength to make those dreams a reality. Where might you end up if you followed your dreams?

Dec. 20 Hope

“Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future.” – Robert H. Schuller, evangelist

Hope allows us to see light in the darkness. Hope offers us horizons. What gives you hope and where might that hope lead you?

Dec. 21 Risk

“And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.” – Anais Nin, author

When we give our imaginations freedom, when we allow ourselves to see with new eyes, possibility is born. What new possibilities might shape your day?

Dec. 5 Remember

“What matters in life is not what happens to you but what you remember and how you remember it.” – Gabriel Garcia Marquez, author

Remembrance can be a sacred act. Memory tells our heart stories. What memories of church feel special to you this Advent season?

Dec. 6 Marvel

“Life never becomes a habit to me. It's always a marvel.” – Katherine Mansfield, writer

When we marvel, we allow ourselves to be inspired and amazed. Marvel invokes awe and encourages curiosity and joy. What thing in nature do you consider truly a marvel?

Dec. 7 Go

“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own, and you know what you know. And you are the one who'll decide where to go.” – Dr. Seuss, children's author

Go – by foot, wing or sail, alone or with companions, trippingly or with ease, taking a map or letting the road lead you, at once or after all is readied. There are so many ways to go and set out on the adventure that is your life. Where (and how) will you go, this Advent?

Dec. 8 Together

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” – Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Interdependent, entwined, connected – the whole, it is said, is always stronger than the sum of its parts. Thinking poetically, what two or three things, feelings, qualities or actions would you like to bring together in your life?

Dec. 9 Embrace

“Stay healthy, have fun with it, and embrace all the moments. Because anything can happen.”— Simone Biles, gymnast

We embrace one another and our passions, wrapping our hearts, minds and souls around what feels needed and important. What will you embrace, this Advent?

Dec. 10 Journey

“The feeling remains that God is on the journey, too.”— St. Teresa of Avila

“The only journey is the one within.”— Rainer Maria Rilke, author

All of life is a sacred journey. From here to there – and back again – the path becomes a symbol, a pilgrimage into the heart of God. What do you like best about the journey? What stumbling blocks do you want to overcome?

Dec. 11 Peacemaker

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" - Matthew 5:9

Peace, the prophets claim, is not just the absence of war. It is the presence of shalom. In what small or significant way could you be a peacemaker this week?

Dec. 12 Connection

“Only connect.”— E.M. Forester, author

“In nature we never see anything isolated, but everything in connection with something else which is before it, beside it, under it and over it.”— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, philosopher

We are not called to live as fragments. God connects us in profound ways. With what or whom do you feel a deep connection? What new connections would you like to make?

Dec. 13 Enough

“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.”— Meister Eckhart, theologian

“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”— Mae West, actress

Dayenu is a Hebrew word that means “it would have been enough.” It’s used to talk about the Passover - at every turn, God’s miraculous intervention in the lives of the Israelites, would have been sufficient, but God did more. God redefined “enough.” What in your life have you had enough of? What will you never get enough of?

Dec. 14 Goodness

“Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power, but in character and goodness. People are just people, and all people have faults and shortcomings, but all of us are born with a basic goodness.”— Anne Frank, young diarist during the Holocaust

Goodness may be our heart’s resting place. It’s not flashy, but it is profound, and it endures. What does goodness look like to you? In what ways it is essential?

Dec 15 Worthy

“You’re imperfect, and you’re wired for struggle, but you are worthy of love and belonging.”— Brené Brown, social scientist

Outside of fear and judgement, live confidently in the certainty that you are worthy, created and beloved as a child of God and nothing can diminish that. You are imperfect; and you are – as is – worthy. During your quiet time this Advent, consider why feeling worthy matters. Celebrate the glorious uniqueness of you.

Dec. 16 Repair

“The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining”.— John F. Kennedy, US President

The Hebrew concept of *tikkun olam* calls us to be repairers of the world. Sometimes these repairs come with an instruction manual, sometimes we’re called on to embrace our own ingenuity. Where do you feel called to make repairs?