

Welcome to Advent!

This time of waiting allows us to focus on the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that Jesus brings into our lives – even in these dark COVID times.

The world and its people are broken, damaged and hurting in all sorts of ways, but we have hope for more: hope for the transformation that knowing Jesus brings to our personal lives, and for our world.

The Christmas story shows the passionate love of God for the humans He created – even through we had turned away from Him towards our own self-seeking pleasures.

God sent His beloved only Son into this messy broken world – sharing our humanity, carrying our burdens, understanding us as we are. He did this so – through His death and resurrection - He could lift us from this earthly mess into the heavenlies to share His life.

This Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are available to all who trust in Jesus

- That baby born in a smelly stable
- That wise but humble teacher and healer
- That man dying in pain on a roman cross
- That man miraculously alive 3 days after his death
- This Jesus, who will one day return as King of all

Each Sunday there will be a colouring mindfulness sheet, and a short video to watch available

Light your own candles at home – but remember to be careful and never leave them unattended!

Contact us for more details: Email: revmaureenstanns@gmail.com

Church website: www.stannwithemmanuel.com www.stannwithemmanuel.com

Find us on Facebook : St Ann with Emmanuel Church

www.facebook.com/stannwithemmanuel

You Tube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UC4tF-sOVw6UwPUyfRp8adug

(or just search for St Ann with Emmanuel Church)



HOPE.
PEACE.
JOY.
LOVE.

Readings for Advent

St Ann with Emmanuel Church
Robin Hood Chase
St Ann's, Nottingham

Joining in the flow of God's love



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (29TH NOVEMBER): HOPE

Take a moment each Sunday – on your own or with members of your household/bubble, or on Zoom with family further away – to light your candle, and use the words below. A moments peace to reflect and pray.

As winter days dim and bow to early darkness, you, God of light, set watch in the night sky and beckon the wise to follow.

When hope hangs low in the human heart, you, loving creator, kindle compassion, breathing life into the early embers of change and empathy.

Light the first purple candle.

We light a candle for hope, sending prayers high into the inky heavens and dreams deep into the human soul. As Advent dawns, God of all hope, shine your light on the story of the saints who journeyed before us. May the seeds they planted in the world – peace, joy, love – take hold in our hearts and stretch towards the light.

ALL: We light a candle for hope. May it light the way.



These Advent readings were adapted from readings originally shared by Christian Aid as part of their #LighttheWay campaign.
WWW.CHRIStIANAID.ORG.UK

We're also sharing a set of mindfulness colouring pages that follow these themes of Advent and can be used as part of worship and reflection.
WWW.ILLUSTRATEDMINISTRY.COM

Ask Maureen for a copy

We'd love it if you took photos of your wreaths, candle lighting and colouring and posted them on social media with the hashtag:
#ADVENTPROJECT2020

Thanks to Inclusive Gathering in Birmingham for these resources.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (13TH DECEMBER): JOY

Uncontainable, irrepressible, bubbling up in an explosion of energy. What the weary long for, what children often embody, what makes the Divine smile – joy. It cannot be paid for, but is a priceless treasure. As we hope for your arrival, as we pray for peace in your living, as we wait and watch and wonder how you might reveal yourself to us,
God give us joy in your Advent.

Re-light the first 2 candles and light the pink candle.

Joy is not a commodity that can be bought or sold, but lives deep in the human spirit. Help us to hear that truth and believe it. Let go of what our consumer culture says will bring us happiness – money, success, a scramble to the top that leaves us flat. If we have robbed others of what they need in our clamour and quest for more than our fair share, forgive us. Help us hear the call of John the Baptist to turn around and begin again. God of love, we were made in joy.
May we live that way.

All: We light a candle for joy. May it light the way.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (20TH DECEMBER): LOVE

Let your light shine. Let your spirit soar. Throw open your mind. Handover your heart. Here it comes – love.

It shines in the darkness. It sings in the shadows. It will not cower and cannot be contained.

It was the hope of the saints, the call of the prophets.

It was the fire in the belly of John the Baptist,
It was in the faith and love of his mother Elizabeth,
and in the courage of Jesus' mother Mary.

Lamp in the window, beacon on the hill,
star in the night sky. Love, you lead us home.

*Re-light the first 3 candles
& light the final purple candle.*

On this fourth Sunday of Advent,
we light a candle for love.

All: We light a candle for love. May it light the way.

CHRISTMAS DAY: THE CHRIST CANDLE

God with us.
Love-shine, your moment has come.

In the dark of the womb you waited. Bathed in the balm of the star, you rest. Into a world sorely in need of your light, you are born. When you knock on our door looking for room, may we welcome you.

Like the herald of your birth, call us to share your good news first with those who are poor, excluded and afraid.

All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot put it out.

Light the Christ candle (white candle in the centre) and all four Advent candles.

The love of heaven has come to Earth. The call of Christ begins in a baby's cry. Listen and respond.

All: We light the Christ candle. May it light the way.



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (6TH DECEMBER): PEACE

In the settle and stir of a burnt-orange sunrise, in the lilting laughter or memory of a table full of friends, in the flash of clarity that turns on the light of insight and leads us towards wisdom, we find the peace that passes all understanding.

But there are things we need to understand. Help us hear you in the stories of those who struggle. Peace is what the prophets foretold. Peace is what is sacrificed when profit takes precedence.

Re-light the Hope candle & light the 2nd purple candle.

We light a candle for peace and pray for the courage to stand up for it. In this second week of Advent, as the waiting and expectation heighten, deepen our desire for peace. Like the wise called to journey in those early dawning days, may we seek, strive, search for peace. Like the prophets old and new, may we cry out for its coming.

All: We light a candle for peace. May it light the way.