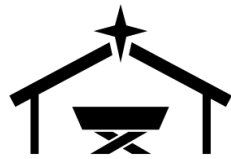
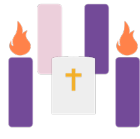


ADVENT TO EPIPHANY

A GUIDE FOR PASTORS AND CHURCHES

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SUNDAY	COLOR	CANDLES	NATIVITY	SUGGESTIONS
First Sunday of Advent Focuses on the Second Coming, reminds us we too are a people waiting		Hope 	 Wait to put baby Jesus and the magi into the nativity scene	Visit holyjoys.org/worship for recommended Scripture readings, songs, prayers, and sample liturgies. During Advent, resist the urge to celebrate Christmas prematurely. The Christmas season does not begin until December 25. Delay your celebration in order to deepen it. While the world rushes through December, slow down, dim the lights, pray “your kingdom come,” lament the darkness, sing songs like “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus,” and “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence.” Ask the Holy Spirit to intensify your longing for Christ’s return and to deliver you from any darkness within.
Second Sunday		Peace 		
Third Sunday Gaudette Sunday; focuses on rejoicing in the midst of waiting and lament		Joy 		
Fourth Sunday		Love 		
Christmas Eve		Light the Christ candle and remove the others (old things pass away) 	 Put baby Jesus in the manger	Very few evangelical churches still have a Christmas Day service, so it is crucial (especially if you observe Advent) to have a Christmas Eve service. Advent is over. This service is characterized by celebration and joyful adoration. Hark the Herald Angels Sing! O Holy Night! Christ is born!
Sundays in the Christmas Season				The Sundays of the Christmas season, though few, are among the most celebratory of the Christian year. Think of the mood of Easter, except the theme is “Christ is born! He is born indeed!” Joy to the World! Go, Tell It On the Mountain!
The Epiphany and the Sunday after the Epiphany			 Add the magi to the nativity scene	Epiphany marks a transition towards focusing on how God’s glory was manifested in the earthly life of Jesus, beginning with the arrival of the magi (the Messiah of Israel is the Savior of the whole world), the baptism (the Messiah is the Second Person of the Trinity), and the wedding at Cana (John 2:11, “the first of his signs ... manifested his glory”). On the Sundays after January 6, focus on the earthly life of Jesus, especially his miracles and teachings. The transfiguration (a foretaste of kingdom glory) is often the focus of the final Sunday before Lent.
Sundays after the Sunday after Epiphany				
	Green until Lent			