

NOVEMBER 27, 2022



Large Group Opening

PEACE • ADVENT 1 • YEAR A

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5 • Psalm 122 • Romans 13:11-14 • Matthew 24:36-44

WELCOME

Sing the “Whirl Welcome Song” together. **Welcome to Advent! Advent is the first season of a brand new church year. During Advent we are waiting for Christmas, and each week a Word of the Day will help us have fun waiting. I will give you some clues to help you guess today's word.** The first person who guesses correctly lights one candle, or asks someone else to do it for them. **Today's clue is: the opposite of war.** Give other clues as needed, and once someone guesses, invite them to light the candle.

HEAR

Before class, ask a volunteer to put on the Isaiah costume and step outside the room. He or she should walk slowly into the room when you say “I wonder.” **During Advent we hear from people in the Bible who tell us what Jesus will bring into the world when he is born. I wonder who brings our message of peace today.** Use binoculars to find Isaiah in the room, ask him to join you near the Advent candles, and introduce him. **Isaiah was a prophet who told people that Jesus would bring peace.** Show kids where Isaiah is in the Whirl NRSV Bible, and teach them the ASL sign for *peace*. Invite everyone to join you and Isaiah as you sign and say Isaiah's message, “**Jesus brings peace.**”

RESPOND

Expand on the message from Hear. Review the sign for *peace* and introduce those for *Jesus*, *prince*, and *brings*. Practice them and then do signs and words together using the messages below. Finally, communicate the messages using only the signs.

Jesus brings peace.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace!

SUPPLY CHECKLIST

- Whirl NRSV Bible
- Dark blue cloth, 4 ft. long
- Candles (5, battery-operated or real with matches)
- Binoculars
- Costume for Isaiah
- Empty manger
- Dark blue yarn (12-in. pieces)
- Scissors

BEFORE KIDS ARRIVE

Set blue cloth on a table in the front of the room. Place unlit candles on cloth, evenly spaced, near the empty manger. Learn the American Sign Language (ASL) signs for *peace*, *Jesus*, *prince*, and *brings*. Video ASL dictionaries are available online.

LAUNCH

Gather around the manger, as you will each week of Advent, and give each kid a piece of dark blue yarn. **Think about someone you know who is sick or sad or stressed and needs peace. We can pray for those people. I will start the prayer, and then I'll invite you to place your yarn into the manger as you say a silent prayer for the person you are thinking about.**

**God of peace,
We pray for everyone who needs your peace.**
(Kids place yarn in manger as they pray.)
Amen.

Send kids to their classrooms.

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

SONG 1: ADVENT TELLS US CHRIST IS NEAR (tracks 4 and 24, page 22 in Songbook)

Sing this song each week during Advent as a reminder that Advent is the first season in the church year.

SONG 2: I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER (tracks 10 and 30, page 41 in Songbook)

Jesus brings peace. Sing this song about the peace, joy, and love that come from Jesus.

SONG 3: THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

This song is helpful to sing during Advent because as days get darker and darker, we light more and more candles. Sing the familiar verse and add one for the Word of the Day.

Jesus brings us peace, and he's coming soon!
Jesus brings us peace, and he's coming soon!
Jesus brings us peace, and he's coming soon!
He brings peace. He brings peace. He brings peace.



Tear Here