



Family Mass Newsletter

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*We are God's dream for the world.
We are the light to one another in the darkness,
and in the darkness, we wait.
We wait, fully awake, fully aware,
without complacency, without compliance.
We become stronger and more fully human.*

*And no matter who wants to suppress us or to silence us,
we can be signs of hope that never, never go away
until, someday, the star finally shines.*

—Joan Chittister

ADVENT 2025

Make Hope Real

This Advent, we invite you to free the angel light you have inside, to bring this powerful light from God out into our world, to Make Hope Real by being a mighty messenger from God.

On the Second Sunday of Advent, we celebrate peace with *Red & Green & Blue & White*, written by Lee Wind and illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky, based on a true story about a Christian neighborhood which rallies together when a Jewish family is attacked. The story concludes with the Children's Choir singing "Carry the Light" by candlelight. For Offertory, the Children's choir sings "O Jesus, Light in the Darkness."

Thanks to reader Jess Klander, choir director Seth Boyd, and choristers Eleanor Boyd, Micah & Rickie-Lynn Brown, Ariyah Cooney-Graves, Alis & Liliana DeSoto, Norah Dunne, Clara Ehresmann, Eleanor & Paddy Gentile, Amma & June Gessner, Estelle Lodien, Nena Meyer, Valentina Popoca, Clara Panzer, Jemma Rasmussen-Jones, Ann Rath, Ryan Rodda, Sophie Rojas, Elaina Schildgen & Molly Wedlund.

Be sure to take home our Advent theme card: Make Hope Real. Add it to your liturgical deck!

And try to find a minute to enjoy some quiet time together with our Stories of Advent, which you'll find on our YouTube page:

<https://bit.ly/3mQOozb>. Cherish each day of Advent as a family!

CAROLS, CRAFTS & COOKIES FAMILY HOLIDAY ADVENTURE

On Dec 10th from 6:30-8pm,



come to our Family Mass Christmas party. Make a winter craft, sing Christmas Carols, and decorate—and eat—holiday cookies.

For the party, we could use some cookie decorations (jimmies, sprinkles, frosting, etc). If you can help, please bring them to the bin outside Family Mass by Dec 7th. Then come to the party and enjoy!



The adventure starts in Hospitality Hall. Don't miss the fun with other Family Mass families! Please register so we can plan for supplies. Hope to see you there!

HEARTFELT THANKS!

Thanks to all who made holiday cards for recent refugees at Casa Guadalupano, local unhoused people, and our SJA neighbors. Your cards will bring real light!

JESSE TREE GIFT COLLECTION

Please return your gifts to the box beneath the tree in the church vestibule by today, Dec 7th. Thank you for your generous hearts!

JOIN US FOR ALL OUR ADVENT-URES!

MESSENGERS OF HOPE



Join our Advent ritual to Make Hope Real in our lives. **Each week, take home an envelope with the week's theme on the front.** Inside you'll find an angel ornament, a white feather, and a challenge card inviting you to do something where you will **use your feather in the world.** After you act, write or draw on the angel describing your action, and **bring the angel back to the church to hang on our Messengers of Hope tree**, which will grow as we Make Hope Real as a faith family this Advent.

ADVENT BIRD WATCHING



Can you spot the birds in the trees around the Manger? Each week in Advent new birds will roost in our trees. They are gathering to wait for the birth of the Light into the world. Look for more of them every Sunday as you watch the Manger grow!

JESSE TREE CHALLENGE



The Jesse Tree is a fun way to imagine Jesus' family tree, using symbols to tell the story of those who helped prepare the way for Jesus. Be sure to stop by the Jesse Tree to hunt for the symbols. Maybe this year, you can read the bible stories (found on the Jesse Tree checklist) to learn more about each symbol. Enjoy the hunt!



Family Mass Good News



John said,
"I am baptizing you in water
to change your lives.
But someone is coming after me
who is more powerful than I am.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
- Matthew 3: 11



THE WORD

Our God is coming! Prepare the way! Today, the Second Sunday of Advent, we prepare the way for the coming of our God, the child of hope, the prince of peace!

In our first reading (Isaiah 11: 1-10), the prophet tells of a great king who will come from the family of Jesse (David's father). This king will rule with wisdom and justice and the whole world will be transformed. It will be a peaceable kingdom where the wolf will lie down with the lamb and a little child will lead them all to live together in harmony.

In today's Gospel (Matthew 3: 1-11), John the Baptist tells of a powerful one who is coming, one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John, with his strange clothes and odd diet, is like an Old Testament prophet such as Elijah who preached against injustice and asked believers to bring about a better world. John, miraculous child of Elizabeth, cousin of Jesus, is the messenger, preparing the way for the coming of Jesus. He asks us to change our lives and open our hearts to our Emmanuel, our hope for a world of peace.

PUZZLER 1

REPLACE THE SYMBOLS FOR LETTERS TO REVEAL THE HIDDEN GOSPEL MESSAGE.

A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS SECRET MESSAGE

@	!	©	■	*	▲	&	◇	⌂	<	>	♪	?	♣	□	◆	☀	®	\$	†	☺	♫	#	~	♥	≡
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
@	♪	□	⌂	©	*	□	▲	□	♣	*	©	@	♪	♫	⌂	♣	&	⌂	♣						
†	◇	*	■	*	\$	*	®	†	◆	®	*	◆	@	®	*	†	◇	*							
#	@	♥	▲	□	®	†	◇	*	♪	□	®	■	?	@	>	*									
\$	†	®	@	⌂	&	◇	†	◆	@	†	◇	\$	▲	□	®	◇	⌂	?							
?	@	†	†	◇	*	#																			

3 : 1 - 3

- PUZZLE BY SERMONS4KIDS.COM

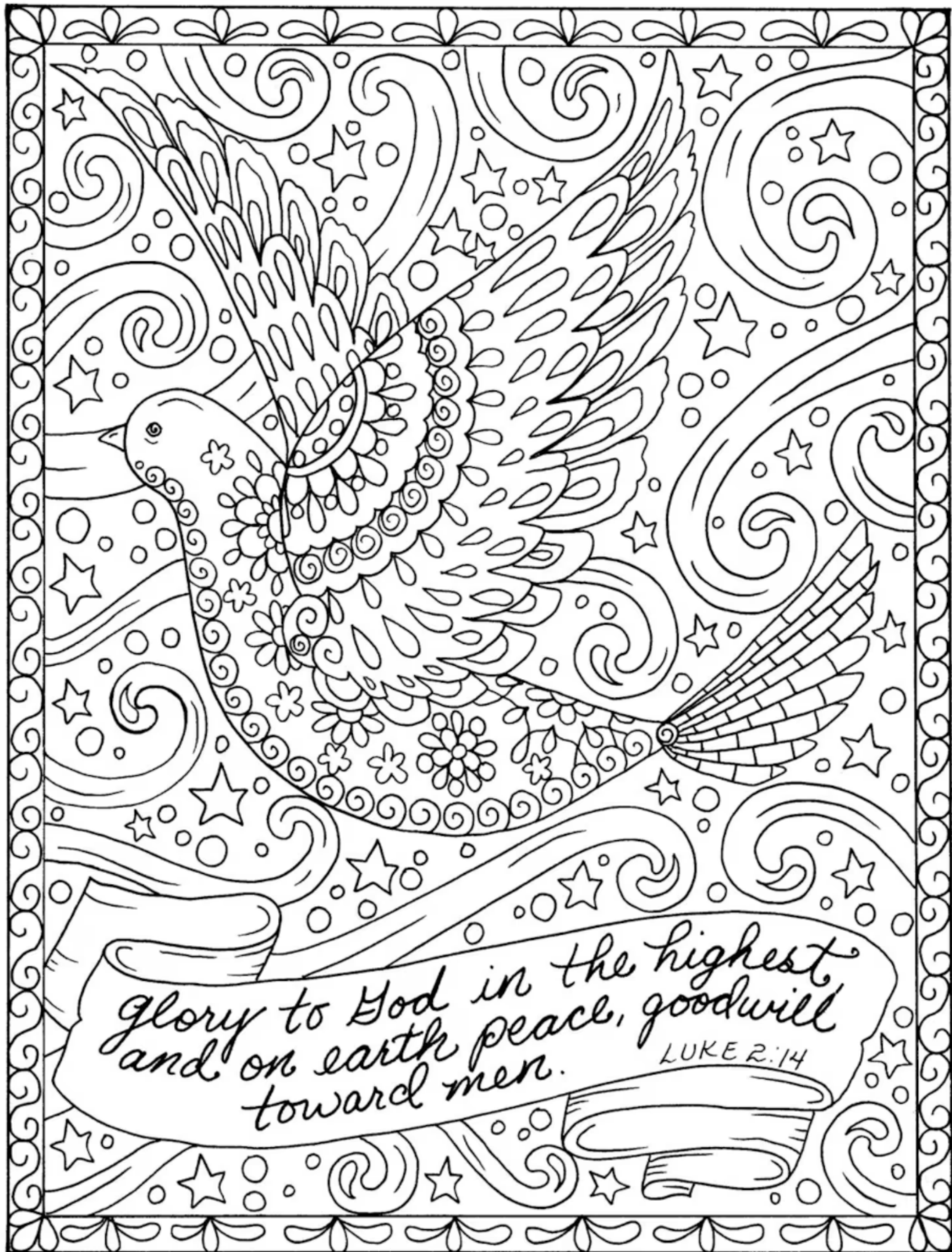
PUZZLER 2

UNSCRAMBLE THE LETTERS TO REVEAL THE HIDDEN WORDS FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL.

ghnaec	_____	tpbziae	_____
seetdr	_____	trwae	_____
njoh	_____	isptri	_____
verri	_____	erparpe	_____

MAKE PEACE REAL

Today we have a story called *Red & Green & Blue & White*, about two friends who stand up to an act of hatred in their neighborhood. Inspired by a true story, it shows us how, when we act together with love and courage, we often find that we can change our world from a place of fear and violence to a place of empathy and peace. So how can we prepare the way for this peaceable kingdom? We can use this precious Advent time to help bring God's dream for the world to life. This week, take up our Advent challenge: do one act of making peace, leaving your feather as a sign of your peacemaking. Then bring in your angel ornament to hang on our Messengers of Hope Tree. No act of peace, no kindness, is too small. Our acts of love are making a straight path for our God to walk among us, bringing the light of peace to our world.



glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace, goodwill
toward men.

LUKE 2:14

THE ADVENT WREATH



Advent is the time that we prepare for the birth of Jesus. One of the ways we can celebrate this season together is by lighting the candles of the Advent wreath, a way to mark the time until Jesus is born. The unbroken circle of the wreath symbolizes God's endless love. The evergreens suggest eternal life. The candles signify our waiting period – the four Sundays of Advent.

Traditionally, the wreath consists of three purple or blue and one pink candle, though all candles may be white. The meaning given to the purple/blue candles can vary, but we use them to celebrate the hope, peace and love suggested by God's birth among us. The pink candle, lit on the third week, which is Gaudete Sunday, represents joy that our wait is nearly over. Some wreaths have a central Christ candle, lit on Christmas day.

When we light each candle, we erase the darkness of our fear and hopelessness. As the candles are successively lit, the increasing brightness creates a crescendo of light as we approach Christmas. Jesus, the light of the world, is born! The bright flames call us to shine our light into the darkness.

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out
—John 1: 5*