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Umc Advent Candle Lighting Readings 2014

Open yourself to the divine chaos and wonder that Advent brings. Join young Mary as she experiences the surprise, confusion, fear, anticipation, and blessing that follows her brave response to God's call: "Here am I, Lord." Listen carefully, and you may hear that call in your own life. Best-selling author and minister Carol Howard Merritt leads us on a remarkable Advent journey with the blessed ordinary girl who becomes the holy and revered Mother of God. From the first Sunday of Advent through

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Christmas Day, each daily devotion includes a scripture verse, a reflection, and a prayer. I Am Mary also features an Advent candlelighting service--a great liturgy for that special moment as you light the candles of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace, and the Christ candle at the center of the Advent wreath and our lives.

How to focus on Christ during Advent Most Christians agree that Christmas is all about Jesus, yet most of us spend little time preparing our hearts to celebrate Him. Why is this? Partly because we don't know how. In Unwrapping the Names of Jesus, Asheritah Ciuciu leads readers through the four weeks

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of Advent (Hope, Preparation, Joy, and Love). Each week: Begins with an interactive family devotional that equips readers to celebrate Advent together Offers five daily reflections that focus on that week's name of Jesus Includes suggestions for fun-filled family activities or service projects This devotional can be used by readers in their own personal worship times or as a tool to engage in family worship during the busy holiday season. Either way, participants will gain a greater sense of awe and wonder at who Jesus is. By focusing on the person and character of Jesus throughout the Advent season, readers will prepare their hearts so that when they admire

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the live nativity, sit in the candlelight service, or wake up on Christian morning, they can join the faithful who sing from the bottom of their hearts, "O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows. We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we

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hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. Additional components for a four-week Advent study include a DVD featuring Matt Rawle, a comprehensive Leader Guide, and resources for children and youth.

Worship at Home: Advent and Christmas 2020 is packed with weekly worship services you can do on your own or with others and includes services for each week in Advent, Christmas Eve, the Sunday after Christmas, and Epiphany. This book is for congregations and

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individuals who want to stay spiritually connected and growing, even when they're not worshipping together in the same space. It provides everything you need to conduct meaningful, spiritually fulfilling, traditionally rooted worship services at home or in other intimate environments. Each service includes essential worship elements, from gathering to benediction, with words and actions you can say and do yourself. Included are links for online musical selections plus traditional hymn suggestions from a variety of hymnals. You'll find helpful ideas for how to use this resource in a variety of settings, and how to create worshipful spaces,

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even in your own home. The Worship at Home series is organized by the liturgical year, with a new book for each season: Advent and Christmas, Lent, Easter and Eastertide, Pentecost, and the weeks after Pentecost. Ways the resource can be used by individuals and families include: - Individuals can use the resource for personal devotion and worship at any time, wherever they like. Go through the entire service, or simply choose whatever portions are helpful. Read a prayer and meditate. Watch a video clip and reflect on it. Sing a song or hymn. - Families can use Worship at Home in the same ways, any time and any place. -

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Suggestions are included for creating worship spaces at home, and for involving children in the services. Here are some ways the resource can be used by a congregation or group: - Pastors or group leaders can use Worship at Home as the worship plans for weekly church services. The pastor might prepare a sermon or homily, but everything else is ready to go. - People can use the resource for worship in any space—at a senior care center, in a park, on the lawn, at the church, and so forth. No bulletins or hymnals are needed. - People gathered to worship via Zoom, FaceTime, Facebook or Instagram Live, or livestream will

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all be reading aloud the same prayers from these books, singing the same songs or singing along with a video. Worship at Home provides a participatory experience and a sense of community, even when people are worshipping remotely.

Two Christmas Eve Services with
Children's Sermons

The Night Before

Christ is Come

An Advent Study for Youth

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes

Preparing for Christmas with Saint
Francis

Not a Silent Night

***This flexible worship planner
can be used as a supplement***

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to your regularly scheduled services or as an independent and complete Christmas Eve celebration. Traditional Advent wreath and candles, familiar hymns and scriptures, insightful prayers, and a colorful banner punctuate thoughtful reflections on the meaning of Advent and the birth of the Christ Child. Sharonn Davis Halderman, a native of Vienna, West Virginia, received her Master of Divinity degree "magna cum laude" from Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She has served rural parishes in the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United

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Methodist Church, where she is an ordained elder and presently pastor of the Juniata United Methodist Parish. She and her husband, also a United Methodist pastor, are the parents of two children. This collection of daily and weekly readings goes through the liturgical seasons of winter – including Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. New voices such as Amit Majmudar and Scott Cairns are paired with well-loved classics by Dickens, Andersen, and Eliot. “For years I have been seeking a book which weaves scripture, prayer and the finest poetry and fiction into the devotional experience of Advent, Christmas, and

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Epiphany. Finally I have found it: an elegant and accessible gem with some classic texts and a rich selection from contemporary literature. This is not only a useful book, it is edifying and exciting reading—the perfect way for the literature lover to focus, meditate and celebrate this time of year.” — Jill Peláez Baumgaertner, poet; Professor of English and Dean of Humanities and Theological Studies, Wheaton College “Maybe it’s not right to think of feasting during the somewhat penitential season of Advent, but that is what this book is: a sumptuous feast.” -Lauren F. Winner “In our individual darknesses we

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long for more light. Sarah Arthur understands this, and, as if pulling together scores of candles with burning wicks, she illuminates our whole year with the gift of flaming words. A treasure of enlightenment."
-Luci Shaw, author of Breath for the Bones and Adventure of Ascent "A beautifully navigated journey through a treasury of literary wisdom - a book to cherish." -Jeremy Begbie, professor of theology and director of Duke University Initiatives in Theology and the Arts Sarah Arthur is a fun-loving speaker and author of nine books, including The One Year Coffee With God and At the Still Point. A graduate of Wheaton

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College and Duke Divinity, she lives in Michigan with her pastor-husband Tom and their two small sons.

www.saraharthur.com

These brief meditations incorporate the hope, celebration, love, compassion, and blessing of the Christmas season and encourage us to find them throughout the year. Features include the poem, "The Work of Christmas," "When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone...The Work of Christmas begins..."; and "I Will Light Candles This Christmas," "Candles of joy, despite all sadness, Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.

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Candles of courage for fears ever present, Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days..." "I know that the experiences of unity in human relations are more compelling than the concepts, the fears, the prejudices, which divide. Despite the tendency to feel my race superior, my nation the greatest nation, my faith the true faith, I must beat down the boundaries of my exclusiveness until my sense of separateness is completely enveloped in a sense of fellowship. I will light the candle of fellowship this Christmas, a candle that must burn all the year long." - The Mood of Christmas & Other Celebrations by Howard

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Thurman

Imagine a group of kids on the floor of a gym, or filling a classroom, or on a weekend retreat, praying in a whole new way--so silently that you can hear a pin drop! It happens everyday with Praying in Color.

Child of the Light

***A Candlelight Celebration for Advent and Christmas Eve
Christmas Gifts That Won't Break***

Messages for the

Advent/Christmas Season

***A Different Kind of Christmas
Leader Guide***

***'Twas the Season of Advent
Simply Spirit-Filled***

***This book provides a complete
worship resource for busy***

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***pastors ... -- Sermons for
Advent, Christmas Eve, and
the Sunday after Christmas --
Advent candle readings with
scripture verses -- Pastoral
prayers -- Children's object
lessons -- Dramatic
monologues which can be
presented by the pastor or a
lay person Assign the materials
... schedule the sermon titles
... then relax and enjoy the
season with your family as you
employ these inspiring
materials in your
congregation.
All Earth Is Waiting invites
readers to explore the familiar
Advent themes of hope,
preparation, joy, and peace***

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with the heavens and earth in mind. Through her powerful and personal reflections, author Katie Z. Dawson calls us to consider how all creation longs for the coming of Christ, taking seriously the notion that the good news of Christ is good news for all the world. Anticipating in Christ's birth the reconciliation of the heavens and the earth, Dawson highlights the responsibility to care for this earth in preparation for Christ's return. This thematic Bible study is designed to be used by individuals and small groups during Advent. Each chapter offers questions for

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reflection and discussion, a brief prayer, and a focus for the week that will encourage readers to engage a specific act of creation care that will help them apply the week's lesson. Also included are Advent candle lighting liturgies, a Call to Worship, a Prayer of Confession that can be used throughout Advent, and hymn suggestions for each chapter. These can be used for small group worship opportunities or in corporate worship. The book's chapters include: The Source of Hope Clear the Way Discovering Joy The Peace of the World The Reconciliation of Heaven and

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Earth

This Advent book invites readers to commit to the practice of daily prayer. The collection of meditations from The Upper Room daily devotional guide is arranged to coordinate with the themes of the four candles on an Advent wreath: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Meditations are included for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the Sunday after Christmas. A complete Leader's Guide for small groups and instructions for making an Advent wreath are included. Make your Wesleyan heritage a part of your Christmas.

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***The United Methodist Hymnal
& The Faith We Sing***

***A Simply Centered Advent
Advent Devotions from The
Upper Room Daily Devotional
Guide***

***An Advent Devotional
Living Christ***

***Based on Lectionary Years A,
B, C***

***Prayers and Meditations from
Around the World***

***How does a pastor who follows the
lectionary make the Advent wreath
relevant to the rest of the service?
Here is a very easy-to-use resource
which includes every Sunday in
Advent, as well as Christmas Eve
and Christmas Day. It provides
bulletin inserts, litanies, prayers,
scripture readings, and flexible and***

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easy-to-use original choral introits, which can be sung by a choir, ensemble duet, or as a solo. This resource covers all three years of the lectionary cycle. It provides bulletin inserts, litanies, prayers, scripture readings, and original choral introits, which could be sung by a choir, ensemble, duet, or as a solo. It is adaptable for any size congregation, large or small. Robert S. Jarboe is pastor of Faith Chapel United Methodist Church, Huntington, Indiana. He is a graduate of Manchester College with a B.S. in Music. He earned the M.Div. degree from United Theological Seminary.

"Living Christ is not a historical exposition nor is it a rule book. It is a resource that will inspire you to allow Christ to permeate your

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preparation for worship-whether you're a worship planner leading a community or a person seeking to establish sacred rhythms in your personal life. Organized over the course of a Christian year, Author Daniel Rife offers practical and accessible ways to incorporate a deeper fellowship with Christ"-- What stands between you and living an authentic Spirit-filled life? Do you want to experience the Holy Spirit more but are afraid of what that truly means? In Simply Spirit-Filled, internationally acclaimed theologian Andrew Gabriel says if you want to experience all the Holy Spirit has to offer, you must become more aware of the ways the Spirit is already quietly at work in and around you. By blending theology, practical steps, and a

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touch of humor, this book brings clarity to praying in tongues, spiritual gifts, dreams and visions, and miracles. Simply Spirit-Filled is a biblically rooted and well-informed introduction to some of the basics of the charismatic tradition.

In Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish

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culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt. The book provides a rich and challenging learning experience for small groups and individual readers alike. As part of a larger four-week study that is perfect for Advent, it includes a DVD and a comprehensive leader guide.

Advent Devotional

The Living Nativity

A Literary Guide to Prayer for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch

Devotions and Stories for the Christmas Season

They Came Together in Bethlehem Down to Earth [Large Print]

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ADVENTure

*Nothing in all the vast,
created universe could
prepare us for God coming
down as a helpless infant,
or for Jesus the son of God
intentionally positioning
himself as a mere servant,
identifying with the lowest
of lows. It's enough to
confound the mind, to make
the heart contrite. This
Advent, God's great surprise
changes everything.*

*An inspirational churchwide
experience exploring how to
find peace and joy at
Christmas and throughout the
year.*

*Christmas Is Coming! Feeling
Anxious? Expect Hope, Love,
Joy and Peace this Advent.*

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Rekindle your anticipation of Christ's birth with comforting conversation. "Schaner shares from her heart a collection of deeply engaging essays that provide not only food for thought during the pre-Christmas season, but also inspiration and hope for the future. This book is ideal for personal reflection, as well as a resource for prayer and discussion groups. I recommend it to anyone who anticipates that Christmas will be 'different' this year." Dr. Charles Yoost Pastor Emeritus, Church of the Saviour-UMC, Cleveland Heights, Ohio "Dinner by Candlelight will encourage

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you to continue your Advent traditions while considering new ways to prepare for His birth. A beautiful thought-provoking read." Debbie Vest Retired Director of South Central Jurisdiction Volunteers In Mission United Methodist Church "I recommend this book to anyone struggling to find 'that Christmas feeling' during a season of grief or loss, or simply wanting to deepen their sense of wonder and gratitude during Advent." Christine Elliott, Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist, LifeStream "Kevin's sometimes bittersweet, more often heartwarming stories helped me to remember the

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quiet holiness of the season." Rev. Barbara SilverSmith Pastor, United Methodist Church A retired librarian, Kevin is a writer and a speaker. She has traveled to five continents with Volunteer In Mission teams with the United Methodist Church; her articles about Ubuntu Journeys sponsored by United Methodist Women appear in Response magazine. Kevin lives in multicultural Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

*Contact:
kevinlouiseschaner@gmail.com
Good News for God's Creation
at Advent
More Services for the Advent
Wreath*

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*All Earth Is Waiting [Large
Print]*

*A Procession of Prayers
Rediscovering the
Significance of Christmas
Services for the Advent
Wreath*

*Sermons and Children's
Messages for Advent and
Christmas*

A three-year pattern of lectionary readings has come into widespread use over the past generation within many churches. Since its release in 1992 the three-year Revised Common Lectionary has had a significant influence ecumenically on worship and its preparation. Now the ecumenical consultation responsible for

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the Revised Common Lectionary is releasing a set of proposed prayers specifically designed for use with the calendar of readings in the RCL. The Consultation on Common Texts sought to prepare a truly ecumenical set of prayers that represent the full spectrum of Christian tradition in all its diverse richness.

Every year, we say we're going to cut back, simplify, and have a family Christmas that focuses on the real reason for the season—Jesus. But every year, advertisements beckon, the children plead, and it seems easier just to indulge our

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wants and whims.

Overspending, overeating, materialism, and busyness rob us of our peace and joy and rob Jesus of his rightful role as the center of our celebration. This Christmas, cut through the hype that leaves you exhausted and broke at the end of the year. Instead, experience the peace of knowing that God is truly with us, the joy of giving sacrificially, and the love of a Savior who gave everything he had for us. In five short, engaging chapters, Pastor Mike Slaughter inspires readers to approach Christmas differently, and be

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transformed in the process. The impact of the miraculous event of the incarnation continues -- and the light of hope that appeared in the darkness of that night in Bethlehem two thousand years ago still shines on us today, even in the midst of life's most difficult situations. Illustrated with poignant stories and anecdotes, these powerful messages celebrate the heartwarming joy of Christ's coming, and demonstrate how we can rely on the Lord to serve as our steady lighthouse while we navigate the shoals of life. This seven-part series for Advent, Christmas Eve, the

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Sunday after Christmas, and Epiphany Sunday provides a comprehensive seasonal resource for busy pastors and worship planners. Each chapter includes a sermon, a children's message, a candle lighting response with scripture reading, and a pastoral prayer. Chapter titles include: - In The Darkness Of Despair -- Isaiah 9:2-7 - In The Darkness Of Suffering -- John 1:1-13 - In The Darkness Of Oppression -- Luke 2:1-5 - In The Darkness Of Fear -- Luke 2:6-11 - In The Darkness Of Anxiety -- Luke 2:12-17 - In The Darkness Of Uncertainty -- Luke 2:17-20 - In The

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Darkness Of Suspicion --
Matthew 2:1-12 Thomas A. Pilgrim, the senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, Georgia, has served several United Methodist congregations in the North Georgia Conference since 1966. He is the author of six other books, including "They Came Together In Bethlehem" and "The Man From Galilee" (CSS). Pilgrim has served on mission trips to Puerto Rico and Costa Rica, and his travels have included eight trips to the Holy Land as a tour host/leader. He is a graduate of LaGrange College and Candler School of

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Theology at Emory
University.

Ideal for families who wish
to provide guidance to their
children in the daily
practice of prayer, this
collection of weekly
devotions includes
Scripture, essays, and
prayer activities.

Dinner by Candlelight

I Am Mary

Experiencing God in the
Presence and Power of the
Holy Spirit

A Beginner's Guide to Advent
Embodying Jesus' Life in
Worship Through the
Christian Year

Advent Journey

Incarnation

Be Transformed this Advent

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Season! His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. In *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. This Advent season church families will come together to remember what 's important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ Child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light

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into the darkness. Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ-child for our lives and world today!

Incarnation is a standalone book, but works beautifully as a four-week Bible study experience perfect for all age groups during the Advent season. Additional components include a comprehensive Leader Guide, a DVD with short teaching videos featuring Adam Hamilton, as well as resources for children and youth.

Celebrate the Advent season with a new family tradition with this beautiful and heartwarming collection of devotions and stories from beloved, bestselling author

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Glenys Nellist, told in the style of the classic 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. 'Twas the Season of Advent is a 25-day devotional that will inspire your family as you eagerly await the arrival of Christ's birth! 'Twas the season of Advent, when all through the earth, People were pausing to ponder Christ's birth. The bright lights were hung 'round the doorframes with care In hopes that Christmastime soon would be there... Prepare the way for the LORD. Isaiah 40:3 Written in both prose and poetry, 'Twas the Season of Advent will engage children and adults alike and become a new holiday tradition for families everywhere! From the

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bestselling author of the holiday favorites 'Twas the Evening of Christmas and 'Twas the Morning of Easter, 'Twas the Season of Advent: Delivers prose and poetry that will appeal to all ages, especially 4-8 year-olds Brings Advent to life through 25 devotions featuring stories from the Old and New Testaments Features beautiful artwork by celebrated illustrator Elena Selivanova Serves as the perfect gift for the family as you prepare for the Christmas season Presents portions written in the familiar rhyme scheme of Clement C. Moore 's 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Showcases a beautiful cover you 'll want to display on

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your coffee table all Advent and holiday season Join Glenys and families around the world as you and your family wait, prepare for, and look forward to the arrival of God ' s son, Jesus. Look for additional inspirational children ' s picture books from Glenys: ' Twas the Morning of Easter 'Twas the Evening of Christmas Snuggle Time series Love Letters from God series Comprised of two compelling services plus a pair of delightful children's messages, this complete set of Christmas Eve resources provides everything you need to create a special worship experience that your congregation will remember long after the holiday decorations have been stored away.

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A Christmas Gift contemplates Christmas Eve's mixture of madness and magic through a creative weaving together of carols, prayers, scripture readings, and several brief meditations. By highlighting some of the diverse moments, memories, and traditions that contribute to the gift of Christmas, this worship service evokes the powerful mystery and miracle of the nativity. O Come, Emmanuel is a moving candlelight service which utilizes the ancient antiphons of Advent to explore the longing behind our search for the Messiah. As the service unfolds, the singing and reading of each antiphon leads worshipers to reflect on the hopes and desires

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that bring us to Bethlehem, culminating in the joyful announcement that God has come among us. The service employs two readers and a solo quartet, along with congregational singing of several traditional hymns. An original choral arrangement of the Christmas antiphon is included. Two inspiring messages for the children's moment are also included. Featuring an interactive, conversational style that involves young people, these lessons can be used with either service or separately. One message helps children think about where Jesus might be in their town or neighborhood if he were born today, while the other celebrates

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how Christ's birth draws us all together. Rod Tkach is the pastor of Faith United Methodist Church in Williston, North Dakota. He is a graduate of Jamestown College, Asbury Theological Seminary, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Jeffrey Whitman is the senior pastor of Colonial Park United Church of Christ in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Lebanon Valley College and Lancaster Seminary. Wesley T. Runk is the author of more than 30 books of children's object lessons, including *The Giant Book Of Children's Sermons -- Matthew To Revelation (CSS)*. A graduate of Wittenberg University and Hamma School of Theology, Runk is an

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ordained Evangelical Lutheran Church in America pastor who has served numerous Ohio congregations.

The 18th-century evangelist and revival leader John Wesley changed the face of Christianity almost entirely through his sermons. He recommended the several dozen sermons he regarded as his most definitive, which are all included in these 52 standard sermons. Sermon 1. Salvation by Faith Sermon 2. The Almost Christian Sermon 3. Awake, Thou That Sleepest Sermon 4. Scriptural Christianity Sermon 5. Justification by Faith Sermon 6. The Righteousness of Faith Sermon 7. The Way to the Kingdom Sermon

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8. The First Fruits of the Spirit
Sermon 9. The Spirit of Bondage
and of Adoption. Sermon 10. The
Witness of the Spirit (Discourse 1)
Sermon 11. The Witness of the
Spirit (Discourse 2) Sermon 12.
The Witness of our own Spirit
Sermon 13. On Sin in Believers
Sermon 14. The Repentance of
Believers Sermon 15. The Great
Assize Sermon 16. The Means of
Grace Sermon 17. The
Circumcision of the Heart Sermon
18. The Marks of the New Birth
Sermon 19. The Great Privilege of
those that are Born of God Sermon
20. The Lord our Righteousness
Sermon 21. Upon our Lord ' s
Sermon on the Mount (Discourse
1) Sermon 22. Upon our Lord ' s

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Sermon on the Mount (Discourse
2) Sermon 23. Upon our Lord ' s
Sermon on the Mount (Discourse
3) Sermon 24. Upon our Lord ' s
Sermon on the Mount (Discourse
4) Sermon 27. Upon our Lord ' s
Sermon on the Mount (Discourse
7) Sermon 28. Upon our Lord ' s
Sermon on the Mount (Discourse
8) Sermon 29. Upon our Lord ' s
Sermon on the Mount (Discourse
9) Sermon 30. Upon our Lord ' s
Sermon on the Mount (Discourse
10) Sermon 31. Upon our Lord ' s
Sermon on the Mount (Discourse
11) Sermon 32. Upon our Lord ' s
Sermon on the Mount (Discourse
12) Sermon 33. Upon our Lord ' s
Sermon on the Mount (Discourse
13) Sermon 34. The Original,

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Nature, Property, and Use of the
Law Sermon 35. The Law
Established through Faith
(Discourse 1) Sermon 36. The Law
Established through Faith
(Discourse 2) Sermon 37. The
Nature of Enthusiasm Sermon 38.
A Caution against Bigotry Sermon
39. Catholic Spirit Sermon 40.
Christian Perfection Sermon 41.
Wandering Thoughts Sermon 42.
Satan ' s Devices Sermon 43. The
Scripture Way of Salvation Sermon
44. Original Sin Sermon 45. The
New Birth Sermon 46. The
Wilderness State Sermon 47.
Heaviness through Manifold
Temptations Sermon 48. Self-denial
Sermon 49. The Cure of Evil-
speaking Sermon 50. The Use of

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Money Sermon 51. The Good
Steward Sermon 52. The
Reformaton of Manners
Standard Sermons
Experience the Joy of Living and
Giving like Jesus
The Mood of Christmas
Tis the Season
The Light of Bethlehem Shines on
Christmas Is Not Your Birthday
Light of Lights
Focuses on light as both a
symbol of the birth of Christ and
the ways in which our actions
influence the lives of others
United Methodist Hymnal and
Faith We Sing CDRom
Recent years have seen a
growing demand from

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individuals and churches for prayers, music and liturgical material that make sense of the global nature of the Christian family. This collection is a procession of prayers and meditations written by Christians from Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australasia and Eastern and Western Europe, and following the life of Christ, relating it to the needs of people. More than an anthology, this book is a rich source of worship resources which can be used anywhere in the world.

Slow down, simplify, and add a burst of color to your Advent.

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The spiritual practice of coloring mandalas (circular designs), lighting candles, and praying regularly can help us stay centered on God during this busy time of year. Based on the 4 candles of the Advent wreath, this coloring book for adults weaves together the popular practice of coloring with 4 simple methods of contemplative prayer. This is more than just a coloring book for adults--it is also a visual prayer journal. Each chapter includes a short vignette, an explanation of the weekly theme and prayer method, a simple candle-lighting liturgy, 7

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mandalas for each week of contemplative coloring, and a closing prayer of illumination. Let the candles light the way and calm your spirit. Color and pray. And you will experience the most meaningful gift of all--a peace that passes all understanding as you journey prayerfully toward the manger. Living and Giving Like Jesus

Worship at Home

Mandalas, Candles, and Prayer

Praying in Color for Kids'

That Glorious Song of Old

Light Upon Light

This study explores how the gifts of the Advent season have a

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permanence that speaks to generations of youth past, present, and future. What are the Christmas gifts that won't break? They are those gifts that cannot be lost, that never go out of style, and that are independent of the chances and changes of life. They are the gifts that have been graciously given by God. Designed to be used in conjunction with the Adult and Children's versions in an all-church Advent study, this study will focus on four of those gifts that also coincide with the four outer candles of the traditional Advent wreath: Hope Love Joy Peace Order one book for each youth in your class, plus a book for each leader. You may also want to order an extra book so youth visiting your class during the Advent season can participate. During this 4-week study, youth will receive from God and

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pass on to others □Christmas Gifts
That Won't Break!□

The Language of the New Century
HymnalWipf and Stock
PublishersAdvent Journey

If the Christmas season has become more of a chaotic consumer ritual rather than a nurturing spiritual time, you need this brilliant "Advent survival guide"! If you set aside just 10 minutes per day, *Child of the Light* will help you find your quiet center amid the stressful flurry of the November/December busyness. As you read the book's brief readings inspired by the season's carols and hymns, your spirit will be lifted, and your thoughts will be redirected to the purpose of the season: preparing for the coming of Christ. "Take time for God: that's exactly the challenge God gives us during this season of

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preparation," writes Richardson. "Personally and culturally, this time of year already seems to race out of control toward a Christmas finish line. In Advent, we are invited to take time out [In] doing so, we nurture our spiritual self, that sometimes fragile part of us who longs for a connection with God." The reflections extend past Christmas to Epiphany, January 6, encouraging you to live into the joy of Christmas beyond traditional seasonal celebrations. A 5-week study guide is included at the back of the book, offering a simple structure for meetings: centering, reflecting, reading scripture, going deeper, and closing. The use of hymns and carols will engage even the most nonmusical among us to fully appreciate the lyrical richness of the season. Do you long for a more sacred and measured

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observance this year? Be joyfully carried through the pre- and post-Christmas pandemonium as a child of the light!

Robert Jarboe offers a wide selection of flexible worship resources that put the Advent candles firmly in the context of the day's scripture readings. there are complete orders of service based on each Cycle A lectionary text for every Sunday in Advent, as well as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Each service is conveniently formatted, and includes reproducible sheets that can be given to participants as well as bulletin inserts with congregational readings.

Church Celebrations for Advent & Christmas

For Lectionary Cycle A

When You Pray As a Family

An Advent Study for Adults

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Shine! Light for All People

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

A Wesleyan Advent Experience

Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary. The five sessions are: 1. Beginning with the End 2. The Piercing of Mary's Soul 3. Amazed, Astounded, and Astonished 4. Mary, Full of Grace 5. It Was Not a Silent Night

This creative and practical church

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resource offers 18 programs and services connect God's people with God's story, from generation to generation, across the ages. Author Rachel Gilmore takes beloved Christmas stories and weaves them into the big picture of God's salvation plan. Traditional Advent themes of hope, joy, peace, and faith meet lessons on responsible stewardship, evangelism, service, and more. A diverse selection of worship and learning formats include: interactive worship services, quiet vesper services, faith and fellowship events, compelling dramas, and intergenerational hands-on workshops

Who came up with the idea of using nativity scenes to celebrate Christmas? Many might be

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surprised to learn that Francis of Assisi, the well-known thirteenth-century saint, is credited with creating the first nativity scene. The Living Nativity introduces readers to Saint Francis and his joyous reenactment of the birth of Jesus, complete with a manger and animals. The Living Nativity explores how nativity sets, Advent wreaths, candles, carols, Christmas cards, and other traditions help prepare our hearts for the God "who bends low to enter our world and our lives." Prayer poems for each day of the season lead readers to deepen their spiritual journey, and the book provides a guided pattern for individuals and small groups to share reflections and experience activities that open their hearts to the Christ child. The

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**Living Nativity provides a prayer,
meditation, and reflection questions
for each day of Advent. The
Leader's Guide includes
suggestions for worship,
discussion questions focused on
the readings, and guidance for a
mini-retreat on a theme of the week.
Walking through Advent and
Christmas
Almost Christmas
Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem
The Language of the New Century
Hymnal
The Hopes & Fears of All the Years
Are Met in Thee Tonight
Light of the World
Unwrapping the Names of Jesus**