



## Advent

A season undiscovered by the commercial world!  
No "Happy Advent" cards.

We can create our own Advent.

A traditional Advent suggests an Advent Wreath  
to be lit during a leisurely dinner, the family gathered.

If that won't work for us and our busy lives,  
we can create a time and a place to notice:

- what we are already have -- and be grateful
- what we might choose to add  
as we live out what we believe

**CANDLE PRESS** offers the following 4 pages with *suggestions* -  
you choose what works for you,  
as you create your own  
family Advent celebration.



You might choose pillar candles  
so you can light them more often.



LED lights can be better  
if you have small children.



And:

LED lights can come with us in the car  
or sit beside our beds as we get ready to turn in for the night.

I wish you and yours a gentle Advent,

Helen Barron

Gathered that works for us  at a time right where we are.

Taking a minute to catch our breath, we can light a candle or flick on an LED light, and offer this prayer or our own:

Hi God. I AM HERE, YOU ARE HERE, WE ARE HERE. AMEN.



Take pasta from a box and put one piece in a bowl for each thing we notice we already have: food, warm clothes, a bed. etc. (We can cook the pasta another night.) During the week ahead let's be on the lookout for generous things we see people doing.



Luke 21: 25-31  
Read it or tell it like this:



Jesus is teaching people to be on the lookout for signs to show them God's Way to do things. Don't get discouraged at bad stuff. Keep noticing and being a part of the good.

What are some things we can do to be sure we don't let bad stuff get us down?  
How will we celebrate the good we discover?

THANK YOU, GOD, FOR HELPING US SEE WHAT WE CAN DO. AMEN.

What are some ways we can "pay forward" from our abundance?  
CARING FOR OUR PLANET:  
Could we choose ways to cut way back on our use of plastic? What else might we choose?  
CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY:  
How about being a Secret Santa? Who could we surprise and how?  
Or what organizations could we help?  
What are some ways we can "pay forward" from our abundance?



Jesus describes dark times ahead. They surely came. AND

"Then they will see . . . "What? How would we describe God's Way that Jesus proclaimed? What signs do we see of God's Way at work in our world now?"

What are we trying to do to follow?

DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS FOR ADULTS AND OLDER CHILDREN. You may choose to read again Luke 21: 21-35

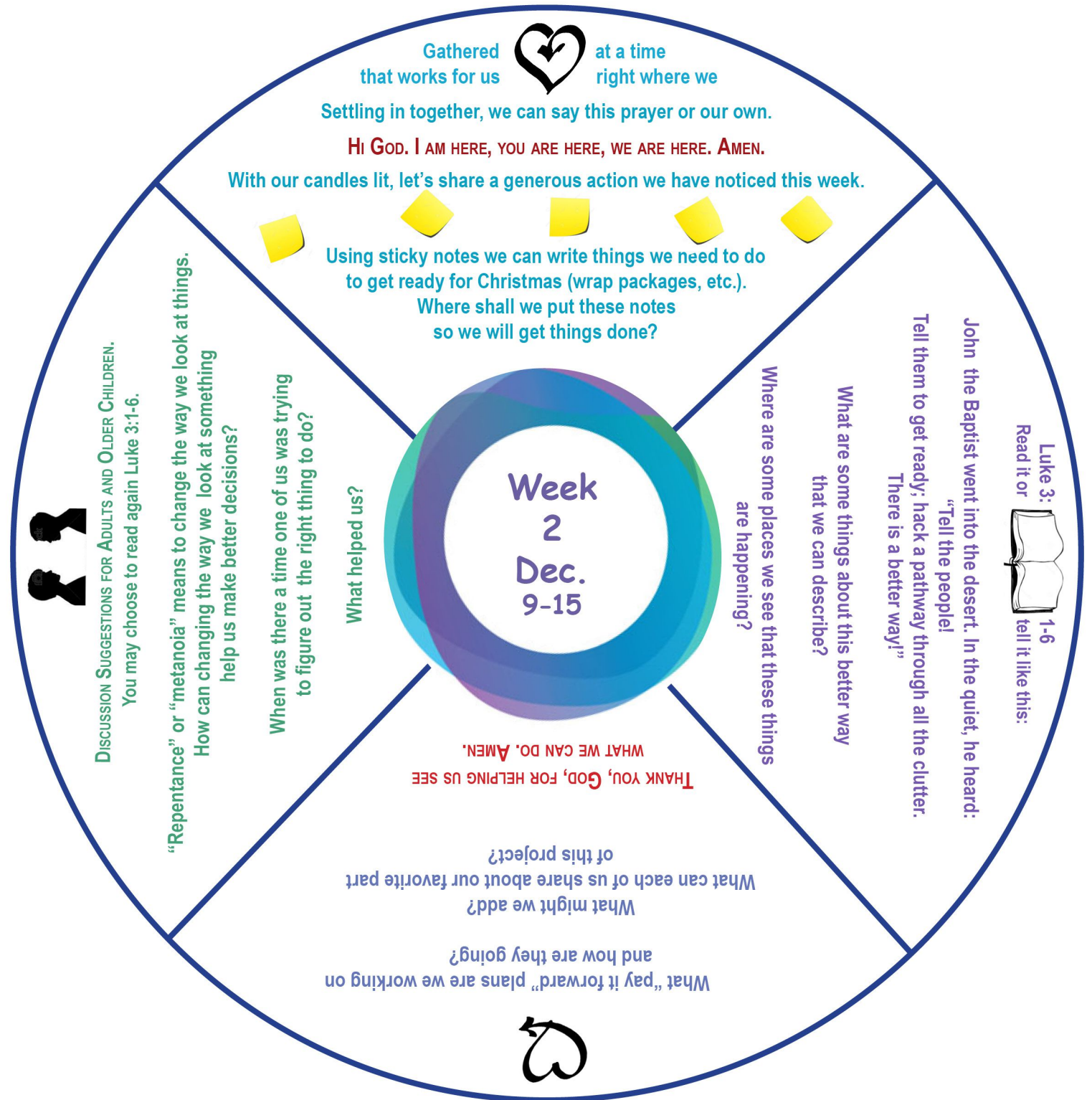


## First Week of Advent Dec 2 - 8, 2018

Some things that will help:

A Bible, an Advent Wreath (if that is your custom), or possibly an LED light for each of us, AND a box of pasta, any kind.





## Second Week of Advent Dec 9-15, 2018

Some things that will help:

A Bible, an Advent Wreath (if that is your custom) or possibly an LED light for each of us,  
a pack of sticky notes, and pens or pencils.

Gathered that works for us  at a time right where we are.

We begin again, candles lit, with this prayer or our own.

**Hi GOD. I AM HERE, YOU ARE HERE, WE ARE HERE. AMEN.**

Do we need to add any *to be done* sticky notes?  
Which sticky notes can be removed because the task is done?

To celebrate what we have completed,  
could we make plans to go see the lights  
on peoples' houses one evening?

In what ways can being grateful  
makes it easier to share?  
What has helped us?

What have we noticed this week  
that people are doing that looks like  
they are doing things God's Way?

Someone is coming who will show you God's Way."

"Hey!" says John the Baptist.  
"Change your minds!

Luke 3:  
Read it or  7-18  
tell it like this:

Who is it that wa coming?

**Week  
3  
Dec.  
16-22**

**THANK YOU, GOD, FOR HELPING US SEE  
WHAT WE CAN DO. AMEN.**

"Share," said John the Baptist.  
What could we share?  
(Do we have an extra coat someone could use?)  
This season means extra work for many people.  
Could we seek out over-worked people and say "thank you?"  
(store clerks, mail carriers, etc.)

People expected the Messiah to swoop in and fix everything.  
If we had been there when John spoke,  
what things do we think we would have had a hard time getting?

DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS FOR ADULTS AND OLDER CHILDREN.  
You may choose to read again Luke 3:7-18



## Third Week of Advent Dec 16-22, 2018

Some things that will help:

a Bible, an Advent Wreath (if that is your custom),  
or an LED light for each of us, possibly more sticky notes.



Gathered at a time  
that works for us  right where we are.


The Fourth Week of Advent is only two days long!  
Let's grab a few moments together - maybe holding hands  
and say this prayer or our own:


**Hi God. I AM HERE, YOU ARE HERE, WE ARE HERE. AMEN.**

As we move on to Christmas Eve, could we keep noticing  
all the good things in our lives and say:

**THANK YOU!**

**Week  
4  
Dec  
23 & 24**

  
Luke 1:  
37-45  
Read it or  
tell it like this:  
A baby was coming for Mary.  
Wise Elizabeth was there for Mary.  
All they could say was how grateful they were.  
If someone asked us:  
"What are the best things about Christmas . . ."  
What would we say?

  
As we go about all we will do this day,  
could we commit to noticing that each person we see today  
is a Child of God?  
Could we give thanks for each of them  
as we continue to do our best to follow  
God's Way?  
**THANK YOU, GOD, FOR HELPING US SEE  
WHAT WE CAN DO. AMEN.**

What are some ways they help us  
to discover how to be our best?

Who are some of the people who encourage us  
or share our responsibilities with us?

Huge responsibilities need to be encouraged - and shared.  
How would we say Elizabeth was an encourager for Mary?

**DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS FOR ADULTS AND OLDER CHILDREN**  
YOU MAY CHOOSE TO READ AGAIN LUKE 1:37-45



## Fourth Week of Advent Dec 23 & 24

Some things that will help:

A Bible, an Advent Wreath (if that is your custom), or possibly an LED light for each of us.