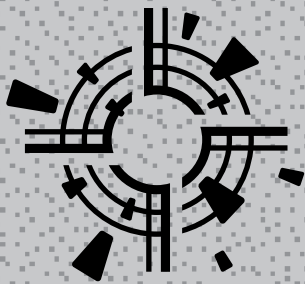


Child of Blessing Lectionary Resource



PRESBYTERIAN
ASSOCIATION OF
MUSICIANS



We want our children in the room for worship.

We want our words and music and prayers and even sermons to make sense for them, without watering it down.

We want people of every age, including children, to experience the wonder and joy of worship.

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Season of Advent

Liturgy

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

To fully engage children in what is often a long prayer, find ways for them to participate or join you in prayer:

- Invite them to sit with you while you pray or to move around the sanctuary during the prayers. (Perhaps where they sit during the children's sermon, if that is comfortable for them, recognizing that some children will not find it comforting to sit in front of the congregation.)
- Share the microphone and let them voice their prayers by categories or leave space in the prayer for anyone to name prayers out loud without a microphone, remembering that God hears all of our prayers, spoken and unspoken.
- Bring newspapers or magazines with images, holding them up and praying for the people and places you can all see.
- Invite people in the pews to slide together and sit in small groups so that they could voice prayers to one another after categories are prompted by the worship leader. Children may be more likely to verbalize their prayers with parents or other safe adults.
- Cut shapes from paper (stars, circles, or other shapes) and ask ushers to offer the pieces of paper to people as they enter the service, saying, "If you have a prayer request, please make a drawing about it or write it here. We will share these later in the service." During the prayers, invite people to come forward and pin their paper shapes onto a string that can be strung across the sanctuary windows. Depending on your context, children could collect the shapes, pin them, and vocalize the written prayers for the congregation.
- Keep it brief! Children's (and adults') attention spans and ability to focus is limited. Likely people of all ages will rejoice in shorter prayers.

PRAYER

Almighty God, you are the light of the world.

Thank you for beautiful things we see each day, like...

(the sunset, sparkling snow, colorful leaves, the faces of one another)

Thank you for signs of your life in the world, like...

(people helping each other, the new things we learn each day)

We are especially glad for people who share your light, like...

(family, teachers, friends)

Sometimes, God, we feel afraid. We need you to comfort us when...

(others bully us, we feel alone, we are afraid of the dark, we get hurt)

We pray for those around us and around the world who need your help, especially...

(people who are hungry, sick, or hurting, people who don't have a safe place to live, anyone who needs a friend).

Hear these prayers and help us to be your disciples, sharing your love with all your people.

With the confidence of the children of God, let us pray: **Our Father...**

GATHERING

Call to Worship/Candle Lighting (Choose one to sing throughout Advent.)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, TIF IN VELDELE, GTG 85

Light One Candle: Christ is Coming, ADVENT CANDLE SONG LS 3

He Came Down, HE CAME DOWN, GTG 137

Opening Hymn (Choose one for each Sunday of Advent.)

Wait for the Lord, WAIT FOR THE LORD, GTG 90

While We Are Waiting, Come, WAITING, GTG 92

Prepare the Way, O Zion, BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN, GTG 106

Come Now, O Prince of Peace, O-SO-SO, GTG 103

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You, VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, GTG 104

Come Now, O God, LOST IN THE NIGHT, ACS 902

The King Shall Come, CONSOLATION, ELW 260

El Dios de paz/Peace Giving God, EL DIOS DE PAZ, SSS 65

Kyrie/Petition (Choose one to sing throughout Advent.)

Away In a Manger, verse 3, MUELLER, GTG 115

O Little Town of Bethlehem, verse 4, ST. LOUIS, GTG 121

Gloria/Response to Forgiveness (Choose one to sing throughout Advent.)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, verse 3, IN DULCI JUBILO, GTG 132

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!, refrain, HALLE HALLE, GTG 591

WORD

Sung Prayer for Illumination (Choose one to sing throughout Advent.)

Come and Fill Our Hearts, CONFITEMINI DOMINO, GTG 466

Kum ba Yah, verse 1, KUM BA YAH, GTG 472

Hymn Responding to the Word (Choose one for each Sunday of Advent.)

My Lord, What A Morning, MY LORD WHAT A MORNING, GTG 352 (Advent 1)

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn, REJOICE REJOICE, GTG 107

(Advent 1)

The Days are Surely Coming, LLANGLOFFAN, GTG 357 (Advent 1)

Isaiah The Prophet Has Written of Old, SAMANTHRA, GTG 77 (Advent 2)

Preparen el camino/Make Ready a Highway, PREPAREN EL CAMINO, SSS 76

(Advent 2&3)

Light Dawns on a Weary World, TEMPLE OF PEACE, GTG 79 (Advent 3)

When Stars Fall Down, MORNING SONG, OLOF 246 (Advent 2,3,4)

Canticle of the Turning, STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN, GTG 100 (Advent 4)

EUCCHARIST

Doxology (Choose one to sing throughout Advent.)

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful, IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL, GTG 654

Come, Lord Jesus, verse 3, TALLIS CANON, LS 97

Communion Hymns and Responses (Choose one to sing throughout Advent.)

Holy, Holy, Holy, ARGENTINE SANTO, GTG 595

You Are Holy, DU AR HEILIG, GTG 596

Eat This Bread, BERTHIER, GTG 527

SENDING

Sending/Closing Hymn: (choose one for each Sunday of Advent)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, HYFRYDOL, GTG 82

Now The Heavens Start to Whisper, JEFFERSON, GTG 94

Soon and Very Soon, SOON AND VERY SOON, GTG 384

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates, TRURO, GTG 93

Comfort, Comfort Now My People, GENEVAN 42, GTG 87

My Soul Gives Glory to My God, MORNING SONG, GTG 99 (Advent 4)

Benediction Response: (choose one to sing throughout Advent)

Prepare the Way of the Lord, PREPARE THE WAY, GTG 95

You Shall Go Out with Joy, THE TREES OF THE FIELD, GTG 80 (Advent 3)

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Playlist Link

Use this QR code to access a Spotify playlist that includes recordings of many of these suggestions. This playlist can be shared with congregants, especially those with children, so that families can play music in the car or at home between services. This may help children to learn music for worship and feel more included during worship.



First Sunday of Advent

Color: Purple or Blue

Isaiah 2:1–5 Turn swords into plowshares; walk in the light of the Lord.

Psalms 122 I was glad when they said, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Romans 13:11–14 Salvation is near: wake up; live honorably; put on Jesus Christ.

Matthew 24:36–44 The Lord is coming; keep awake; no one knows the day or hour.

Ideas

Use children's artwork as bulletin cover art. Invite children to make drawings in response to biblical stories and choose one to feature each week. You can also organize an art exhibition of children's work in a fellowship hall or other central location as a way to include children and the gifts they bring.

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The color for Advent is purple or blue. Invite children to look for this color in the sanctuary during worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP/CANDLE LIGHTING

Isaiah 2:2–5

People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.
Repeat as prompted by the worship leader.

The candle may be lit before, during, or at the end of the call to worship.

People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.

God's house will be most holy.
 People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.

All nations will come to God's holy place.
 People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.

People in God's holy place will not fight;
 they will grow and love.

People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.

We give thanks that this place is part of God's holy place,
where we grow and love.

People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.

We light the first candle,
praying for God's hope, God's coming kingdom.

People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God gives us grace.
So we come to God to admit our sin
and ask for forgiveness,
praying together,

**Loving God, thank you for your grace.
You have called us to walk with you, but we have not followed.
Forgive us when we ignore you and each other.
Have mercy on us and show us your way
so that we can learn to do your will.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Friends, wake up! Salvation is near.
In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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