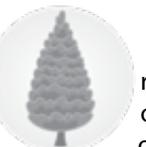


What do I See in Advent?

A Sticker-Sheet Treasure Map for Advent and Christmas

As you search around your church this Advent and Christmas, pay close attention to the sights, sounds and messages. Do you see a special wreath on display like the one pictured on this sticker sheet? Are special candles lit or familiar Bible stories read?

Each time you see or hear one of the Advent symbols below, place the matching sticker from the sticker sheet in its place on the Advent wreath. Learn about those symbols in the boxes below. See if you can collect all the items on your way to discovering the true treasure of Christmas!

 <p>A Wreath The green wreath is a sign of new life, even in the dark of winter. The circle shape of the wreath reminds us that God's love is never-ending. He comes to be with us forever!</p> <p><i>"I am the Alpha and the Omega, ... the beginning and the end." Revelation 22:13</i></p>	 <p>Purple Candles Three of the candles on the Advent wreath are purple or blue, the color fit for a royal king: King Jesus! Each time you see a new candle lit, place a "flame" sticker on the wreath.</p> <p><i>Behold, your king is coming to you! Zechariah 9:9</i></p>	 <p>Evergreen Tree The evergreen tree reminds us of the gift of eternal life that Jesus offers us. The tree is shaped like an arrow, pointing up to our heavenly home. The lights shine like the stars over Bethlehem.</p> <p><i>He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should ... have eternal life. John 3:16</i></p>
 <p>Rose Candle Pink is a joyful color! The third candle on the Advent wreath is a joyful, pinkish rose. As the light of the candles grows brighter, we rejoice, knowing that our long, dark wait is almost over!</p> <p><i>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Isaiah 9:2</i></p>	 <p>Shepherds Shepherds are good watchers. Perhaps that is why God chose them to be the first to hear that Christ is born! They shared that good news of great joy. The third candle is called the Shepherds' Candle.</p> <p><i>There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Luke 2:8</i></p>	 <p>Carolers Do you see people singing in church? One familiar Advent song is "O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel." We all sing to invite Jesus into our hearts this season. He is Immanuel—God with us!</p> <p><i>Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14</i></p>
 <p>Angels Look around for angel decorations. Listen to the many angel messages read from Scripture. They announced good news to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, shepherds and to all the earth! Candle four is the Angel Candle.</p> <p><i>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!" Luke 2:14</i></p>	 <p>Food Pantry The name <i>Bethlehem</i> means house of bread. Jesus was born in a city famous for bread. He called himself "The Bread of Life." Is there somewhere at church where food is collected for the needy?</p> <p><i>"I am the living bread that came down from heaven." John 6:51</i></p>	 <p>A Nativity Scene What figures are on display? Is the manger empty in hopeful expectation of Jesus' coming? A nativity scene is a wonderful reminder that Jesus came to be with us, to be heard, touched and seen!</p> <p><i>"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory." John 1:14</i></p>
 <p>John the Baptist John was a prophet. He tells us to prepare for Jesus' coming. When people asked John about the promised Messiah, John pointed them to Jesus, "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."</p> <p><i>"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'" John 1:23</i></p>	 <p>Mary and Joseph Good news, Mary, "you will bear a son and call his name Jesus." Joseph got that same message. They welcomed God's Son. The news is for you too. Pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!"</p> <p><i>"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21</i></p>	 <p>A Manger Is there a manger at your church or in your home? Perhaps you could use it to tell the wonderful story of Jesus' birth. When you do, share the angel's news ...</p> <p><i>"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:12</i></p>