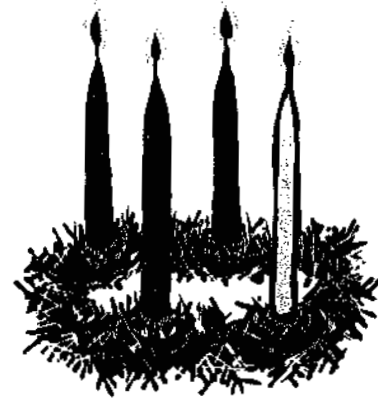




# ADVENT



ADVENT  
"Coming"

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL  
Armenian Church—Western Diocese

*Booklet prepared by Debbie Derderian*

November 2008

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### FAITH

Today we will light the Green Candle...the Color Green reminds us of Faith—the faith we have is that God will keep his promise to send His Son.

- Today's Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, 40:3-5, 52:7
- Today's Song : O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
- Meditation: God Kept his promise to send the Messiah. Think about what other promises God makes. Does he keep them?

### O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

#### Verses:

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.
2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high  
Who ord'rest all things mightily.  
To us the path of knowledge show  
And teach us in her ways to go.

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel*



### What is Advent...

What is Advent? Just as Great Lent is a preparation for Easter, Advent is a 50-day period for reflection and self-examination in preparation for Christmas.

*Advent* means "coming".

Advent usually begins at the end of November, and extends to Armenian Orthodox Christmas, January 6. It is a time for fasting, prayer, scripture reading and church attendance—all intended to help us understand the full meaning of Christ's coming.

### Advent Wreath...

- The circle of the **Wreath** is a Christian symbol for God, who is eternal, without beginning or end, perfect and complete.
- The **Evergreen Branches** symbolize immortality and eternal life
- The **Candles** represent Christ who is the light of the world.



The colors of each candle expresses something special that will be discussed each Sunday of Advent.

### They are all Liturgical Colors



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### HOPE

The Candle we will light today is the Blue Candle--which signifies HOPE. The Blue Candle reminds us of the hope we have that Christ will come again this year to bring new joy into our lives.

- **Today's Scripture is:**
- Luke 1:5-31
- **Today's Song:** Joy to the World
- **Meditation:** Christ came to bring joy and make our joy complete. Think about how he brings joy into our hearts today. Why should the Christian be joyful?



# HOPE



### JOY TO THE WORLD

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing!
2. Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns! Let all their songs employ!  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy. Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!
3. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations  
prove The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love!



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### LOVE

This week we will light the Gold Candle which signifies love. The Gold Candle reminds us of the words of St. John when he said, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."

- **Today's Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:26-38
- **Today's Song:** O Come All Ye Faithful
- **Meditation:** Let's think about St. Nicholas who was known for his great generosity in distributing gifts and money to the poor. He preferred to disguise himself and deliver the gifts after dark so that no one would know he had left them. Think about how we can follow his example in giving gifts to others this Christmas.



### O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. Adeste, fideles, laeti triumphantes  
Venite, venite in Bethlehem;  
Natum videte Regem angelorum.  
Venite, adoremus, Venite, adoremus,  
Venite, adoremus Dominum.
2. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
**O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### PEACE

This week we will light to White Candle which represents Peace. The white candle reminds us of the Angel's message to the shepherds, "Peace on earth and good will toward men."

# PEACE

- **Today's Scripture Reading Is:** Luke 1:1-18 (The journey to Bethlehem)
- **Today's Song:** O Little Town of Bethlehem
- **Meditation:** This is a time for us to think about the relationships in our lives that need repairing. Is there someone who has something against us? Do we have something against someone? Whom do we need to forgive. The Prince of Peace is coming. In order to be prepared, we must forgive and be forgiven.

### O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by  
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God, the King, and peace to all on earth.



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### REPENTANCE

This week we will light the purple candle which signifies repentance. The purple candle reminds us of our need to repent (ask for forgiveness) before we can meet the coming Christ. Before Christmas, we should try to make our spiritual lives right again.

- **Today's Scripture Reading:** Mark 1:1-18, 14-15
- **Today's Song:** Silent Night
- **Meditation:** The Sacrament of Penance is a way for us to prepare ourselves with a thought self-examination and prayer.

### SILENT NIGHT

1. Silent night, Holy night. All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon' Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, Holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

3. Silent night, Holy night. Son of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.



## SIXTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Holy Communion

This week we will light the red candle which signifies Holy Communion. The red candle reminds us that Christ who came in Bethlehem and who will come again at the end of time, comes to us now in the sacrament of Holy Communion. The reason he was born in Bethlehem was that we might allow him to come and be born in the manger of our hearts.

- **Today's Scripture Reading:** John 1:18 (The coming of the Word of God) and also John 6:52-58 His coming in the Eucharist.
- **Today's Song:** Away in a Manger
- **Mediation:** Think about the meaning of Holy Communion.



#### AWAY IN A MANGER

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes.  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Today we will light the large candle, which represents Christ. "for unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given and his name shall be called Wonderful.

- **Today's Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:1-7 The Christmas Story.
- **Today's Song:** Hark, the Herald Angels Sing.
- **Mediation:** How Blessed we are to be the New Israel—the Chosen of God. How blessed we are that our Savior Jesus Christ came so that we might have life and life abundant.
- Shnorhavor Nor Daree Yev Soorp Dzunoont

A decorative background for the Christmas Day text, featuring a faint, stylized illustration of a manger scene with a baby in a manger, surrounded by stars and a crescent moon. The text is overlaid on this background.

**GLORY TO GOD IN THE  
HIGHEST...  
AND ON EARTH PEACE**

## CHRISTMAS DAY...

### HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Mendelssohn



1. Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new-born King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new-born King.

2. Hail the heavnborn Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His Glory by  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King."

## MERRY CHRISTMAS...

### WE THREE KINGS

John H. Hopkins, Jr.



1. We three kings of orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*O—star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bring,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown him again,  
King for ever ceasing never  
over us all to reign.
3. Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising gladly raising  
Worship him, God on high.
4. Myrrh is bitter, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb