



December The Season of Advent

EXPLAINING THE ADVENT WREATH

The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Jesus Christ.

The wreath is made of various evergreens. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly, and yew signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolise life and resurrection.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday.

The First candle represents **HOPE**—because the prophets foretold the birth of Jesus and the people wait in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The Second candle represents **PEACE**—Jesus’s coming brings an end to all division and destruction, bringing peace on earth.

The third candle represents **JOY**—as we get closer to the birth of Jesus, our joyful anticipation increases.

The fourth candle represents **LOVE**—the love of God for us that he would send His only Son into the world.



Visit your local church. Look at the Advent wreath and colour the Advent Wreath using the correct Colour Candles.

Answer the following questions:

Who said, “Mary do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour”?

What was the name of Elizabeth’s child?

Which prophet said of the child born for us: “Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, eternal Father, Prince of Peace”?

What did John the Baptist live on in the desert?

Who were the first parents in Jesus’s Family Tree?

What date is Christmas Day?

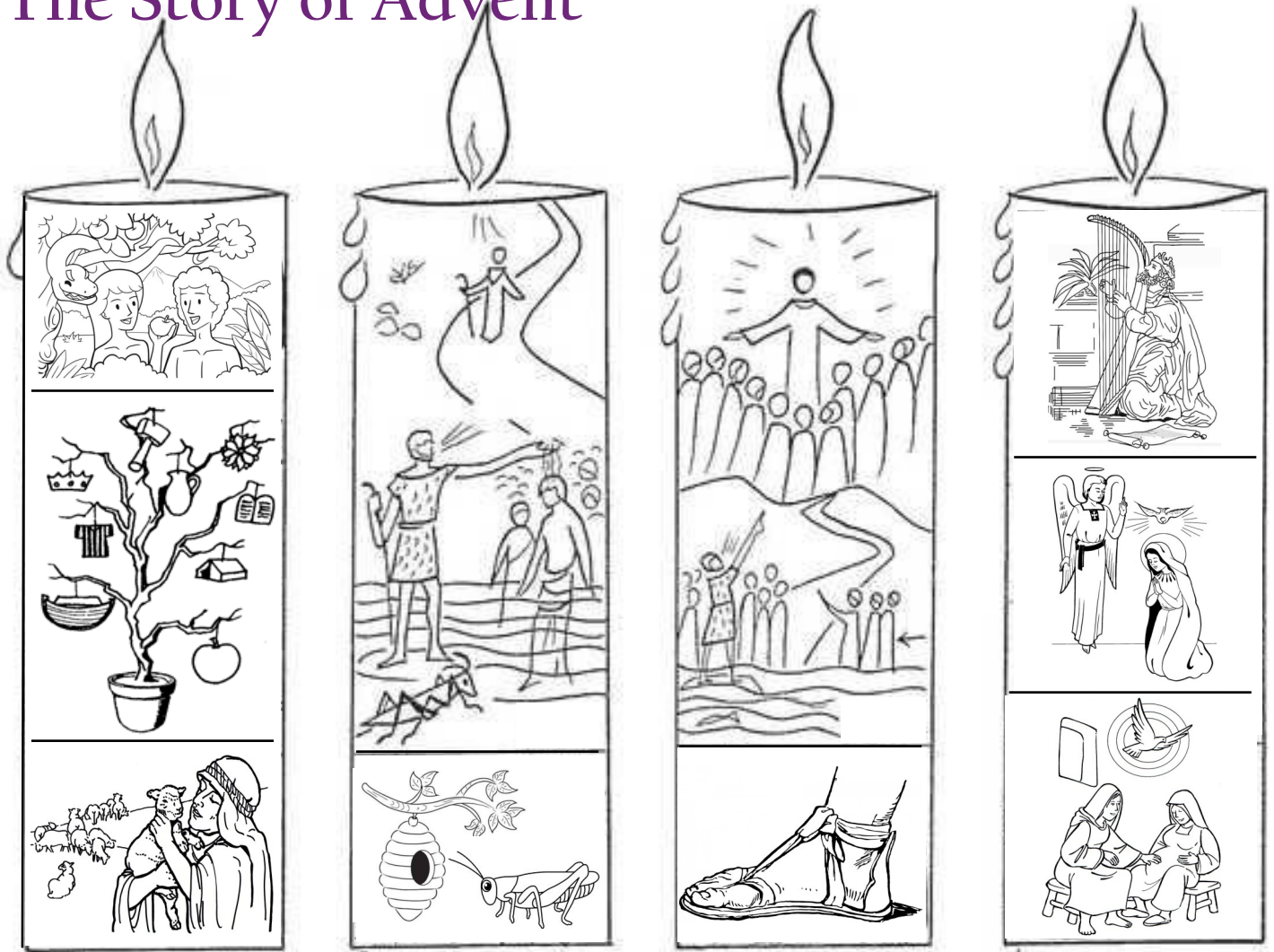
What is Advent?

Advent is the period of time before Christmas during which Christians wait for the birth of Jesus.

The word “advent” comes from a Latin word which means “coming” or “come into”, as Jesus came into the world for us.



The Story of Advent



Each of the above candles recalls the story of Advent. Can you identify the stories?

The Sunday readings at Mass during the Four Weeks of Advent may help you.

THE JESSE TREE

The Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus's family tree. Each day of Advent, read a Bible story about someone on Jesus's family tree and hang an ornament symbolizing the story on your Jesse Tree. As you decorate your tree, you'll see how God prepared for Jesus to be born through many generations.

The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree. Each symbol represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus.

For more details, check out: <https://www.faithward.org/jesse-tree/>

