

## Welcome to the Journey

This Advent Season we are looking at who Jesus came to be through the names given in Isaiah 9:6. In exploring these names, we hope you discover a greater anticipation for the coming of Christ at Christmas this Advent Season.



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**ISAIAH 9:2,6 (NIV)** 

## O Donderful Counselor

Proverbs 3:1-6 (NIV)

#### **WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28**

Today as we begin the season of Advent in worship, we read about the teachings and guidance of God in Proverbs 3. As you think about Christ coming as **Wonderful Counselor**, journal or discuss some or all of these questions:

- Look up the word "counselor" in the dictionary.
   What does it mean?
- Who is a person from whom you seek counsel in your life? What makes them a person you turn to and trust?
- How does "counselor" describe Jesus? Can you think of an example from the Bible where Jesus offered counsel? What set Him apart in that role from others?
- Where might you need to lean on God's understanding in your life? How might you do that?

God of Wisdom, in this season when we celebrate light coming into the world, we pray that You will illuminate our paths. In the places where we struggle, give us your counsel. Reveal to us Your wisdom, that we may prepare the way for You to enter our hearts, lives, and world. Amen.

#### WORD SEARCH

Find the words from our scripture passage!

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TEACHER
PATH
TRUST
LOVE
FAITHFULNESS
SUBMIT
LORD
GOD
PEACE
PROSPERITY

#### **MOVIE NIGHT**

Elf

Sometimes movies, even very silly movies, can teach us a lot about our lives of faith. In the movie *Elf*, Buddy the Elf receives a lot of counsel from different people.

- What counsel/advice is good advice for Buddy to listen to?
- What are the rules for being an elf?
- How might those rules/that counsel apply to our life with Jesus?



#### **COOKING**

Make sugar cookies together with some crushed up candy cane pieces. Think about how it takes forever to eat on a candy cane but it is quicker to eat the pieces of a candy cane when they are baked in a cookie.

- 2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1½ cups white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Candy Cane pieces

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. In small bowl, stir together flour, baking soda, and baking powder. Set aside.

In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually blend in the dry ingredients. Mix in candy cane pieces. Roll rounded teaspoonfuls of dough into balls, and place onto ungreased cookie sheets.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes, or until golden.

#### **SERVICE**

Contact a shelter or counseling center and ask if you can make a donation, monetary or some items, that spread cheer.

#### **PRAYER**

Dear Lord, thank you so much for all of the good advice and wise counsel that You have in the Bible. Help us to remember to read our Bible daily so that we can learn all that You want us to learn and avoid being foolish. Amen.

#### **MUSIC & SONG**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King, Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone; By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

The words of this beloved hymn by Charles Wesley invite us to remember God's power to offer strength, comfort, and counsel in challenging times. It is also an invitation for Christ our counselor to dwell in our hearts. This is our prayer during the season of Advent, to prepare for the coming of Christ into our hearts and into the world. You can listen to the hymn by going to phumc.com/adventmusic.

#### **CRAFT**

Decorate and cut out the ornament for "Wonderful Counselor" in the back of this booklet



## Mates





Today is the second Sunday of Advent, and our scripture is the familiar text from Mary commonly known as "The Magnificat." Her powerful words are a beautiful description of God as a **Mighty God** coming in Christ. As you think about Christ coming as **Mighty God**, journal or discuss these questions:

- Look up the word almighty in a dictionary and discuss what it means.
- How does that word describe Jesus?
- God has given Jesus all authority, or compete power, over everything on the earth. Explore God's Word and see if you can find other Bible verses that talk about Jesus having all authority or complete power.
- How can we balance an understanding of God as mighty and merciful? How is that challenging?
- Mary saw herself as part of God's work in the world.
   How might you be called to be a part of God's mighty and merciful work in the world?

Merciful and Mighty God, in this season of Advent, we like Mary look towards You as one who does great things for people who are in need. Help us to receive your calling this Advent season and to not only magnify You in word but in deed as well. Amen.

#### WORD SEARCH

Find the words from our scripture passage!



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MIGHTY
POWERFUL
RULER
MERCIFUL
JUSTICE
GENERATION
SAVIOR
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BLESSED

#### **MOVIE NIGHT**

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The Incredibles

If you choose, watch *The Incredibles*. This movie has superheroes in it that use their superpowers to help those in their community. God gives each of us our "superpower" abilities to help others too. Maybe find something you can do to use your might to help make someone's life better. (Make a card for someone who lives alone, go and sing some Christmas Carols to someone to brighten their day, help put up Christmas decorations outside to spread cheer to the community, etc.)



#### **COOKING**



Have fun together making some barbell shaped food items. Either take meatballs and skewer them on both ends of a toothpick or explore other possible options like taking a pretzel stick and attaching cubes of cheese or olives on the ends. Be creative!

The barbell shaped food can remind you of God's power to sustain, support, and lift us up when life is really hard.

#### **SERVICE**

Think about how when people come together in service, their combined efforts become a mighty force to help make people's lives better.

Ozark Mission Project is a service organization that our church supports and they help build a better future for our neighbors. One thing we can do right now for our neighbors is to donate some food items to a Blessing Box in our community. You may know of a location, or you may find one at the Ozark Mission Project office located at 2223 Durwood Rd .

#### **PRAYER**

Mighty God, thank You for being so strong that no matter what our problems are, we can come to You and You are strong enough to conquer them. Help us remember to always lean on You for support. Amen

#### **MUSIC & SONG**

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Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide; let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won; eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!

These lyrics written by Georg Weissel and translated by Catherine Winkworth convey powerful imagery of almighty God, the King of kings. And, its imagery is also of a personal God. This is Christ - the King of kings and the one who comes to live and dwell among us. Listen by going to phumc.com/adventmusic.

#### **CRAFT**

Decorate and cut out the ornament for "Mighty God" in the back of this booklet.





## Mates

# Everlasting Father

Isaiah 40:1-11

#### **DECEMBER 12**

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. God's Word tells us that Jesus is our Everlasting Father. He is with us for eternity and watches over us and cares for us just like a Good Shepherd cares for his sheep. Advent is not only a season where we look towards Jesus' birth but also the second coming, the full, everlasting transformation of the world. As you think about Christ coming as **Everlasting Father**, journal or discuss:

- Look up the word everlasting in a dictionary and find the meaning. What in the definition stands out?
- How do the two words together, Everlasting Father, describe Jesus? What about Everlasting Mother?
- In what ways do a Good Shepherd and a Good Father have things in common? What about a Good Shepherd and a Good Mother?
- How does God watch over you and offer comfort?

Everlasting God, we know that Your power is greater than we can imagine. And we know that we are in need of Your care, comfort and wholeness. Watch over and care for us today and every day and help us to care for those around us. Amen.

#### WORD SEARCH

Find the words from our scripture passage!

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#### MOVIE NIGHT

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Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory

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In the movie *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* there is reference to a candy called the "everlasting gobstopper."
Basically, this candy was commonly called a "jaw breaker." They tend to last forever, thus the reference to "everlasting". Enjoy some candy canes, considering how they are kind of like "everlasting gobstoppers." As you do, think about what it means for Christ to be an Everlasting Father.

#### COOKING

Take some biscuit dough, or Pizza dough and form it into a shepherd's crook and bake it following the instructions on the package or recipe.

As you do, think about how a shepherd uses his crook to help keep the sheep going in the right direction. Jesus uses His words in the Bible like a shepherd's crook: they help lead us in the right direction, we just have to read His words and follow Him.

Enjoy your baked shepherd crook by dipping it in either jelly (for cooked biscuit dough) or pizza sauce (for cooked pizza dough).

#### **SERVICE**

Look up the organization called Big Brothers and Big Sisters. This service organization pairs adults with students who may need an adult figure in their life to help mentor them.

We can be big brothers and sisters to our siblings and to others who look up to us as role models. Pray that God will use you to be a mentor this week for someone.

#### **PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

### Here is an explanation of *The Lord's Prayer* line by line. This is written for children but is powerful for all of us:



Our Father who art in heaven – Dear God, No matter where I am or what I am doing, I know you always hear my prayer.

Hallowed be thy name - Your name is special, God. Whenever I hear it, I remember how wonderful you are and how much you love me.

Thy kingdom come, - You have made a beautiful world, God. I love to wake up and see each new day. But sometimes I feel grumpy or sad, and I forget how much you love me and the world doesn't seem so beautiful. I know you want me to be happy. So please help me remember that you love me.

Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. — If we lived the way you want us to, the world would be a better place. People would care for each other and help take care of the world and everything in it. Then the world would be a wonderful place like you want.

Give us today our daily bread. – You give me everything I need, God. Good food, and clothes to wear, and a place to sleep. Thank you for taking care of me.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. – Sometimes I do things I shouldn't do, God. Then I'm sorry and I promise not to do it again. Because you love me very much, you forgive me. Sometimes other people do things that make me mad. I know you can help me to keep loving people all the time.

Save us from the time of trial – God, sometimes I am tempted to do something I shouldn't. Help me to know the difference between right and wrong. And help me always to choose what is right.

And deliver us from evil. – Sometimes I am afraid, God. Please keep me safe.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.— Everything in the world belongs to you, God! You can do anything and for that I thank you and say, "Hooray!"

#### **MUSIC & SONG**



#### Good, Good Father by Chris Tomlin

I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night And You tell me that You're pleased and that I'm never alone

You're a good, good Father
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, it's who I am

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide But I know we're all searching for answers only You provide 'Cause You know just what we need before we say a word

You are perfect in all of Your ways You are perfect in all of Your ways You are perfect in all of Your ways to us You are perfect in all of Your ways

It's love so undeniable I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still into love, love, love

Go to phumc.com/adventmusic to listen to this beautiful song. May it be a prayer to connect us to our Everlasting Father.

#### **CRAFT**

Decorate and cut out the ornament for "Everlasting Father" in the back of this booklet







Isaiah 11:1,6-9

#### **DECEMBER 19**

Today is the final Sunday of Advent. God's Word tells us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He is the promised Savior who came to earth to restore every broken relationship, provides us a well-oriented and balanced life, and offers us the assurance of eternal life.

As you think about Christ coming as **Prince of Peace**, journal or discuss:

- Look up the word **peace** in a dictionary. What does peace look like? Is it hard to imagine?
- How does the name the Prince of Peace describe Jesus?
- How can we be agents of peace? What does it mean to have a spirit of peace?
- How does the promise of Christ as the Prince of Peace change the way Christians should view the world?

God of Peace, help us to see Your vision of peace. Bring peace to our hearts and minds and souls as we are spinning from the chaos of the world and the season. And help us to live into Your vision of peace for the world as we prepare for the coming of Christ, our Prince of Peace. Amen

#### WORD SEARCH

Find the words from our scripture passage!



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#### MOVIE NIGHT

Charlie Brown Christmas

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In the movie *Charlie Brown Christmas*, Charlie Brown is depressed by the commercialism and how no one seems to be interested in a true Christmas—Snoopy is just worried about getting lights and decorating his doghouse; Sally is just concerned about her letter to Santa Claus and all the things she wants. How does Charlie Brown discover peace during the holiday chaos? How might you discover and share Christ's peace this Christmas?

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#### **COOKING**

Make a Christmas Snack Mix! Think about how all the different ingredients' flavors mix together to be something amazing. How amazing would it be if different people could work together to create something good in the world rather than fight and argue?

- 2 cups corn or rice Chex cereal
- 1 cup miniature pretzel twists or pretzel rods
- 2 cups Cap'n Crunch cereal (with no berries)
- 2 cups cheerios
- 1 cup Christmas (green and red) M&M's
- 3 cups or 16 oz white chocolate chips
- 1 and 1/2 teaspoons vegetable oil or shortening
- 1. Line a large sheet pan with parchment paper and set aside.
- 2. Combine first 5 ingredients.
- 3. In a medium-sized microwave-safe bowl, add the white chocolate chips and vegetable oil. Microwave for 10 seconds, take out and stir. Repeat until melted and smooth. Pour the melted and smooth white chocolate over the snack mix.
- 4. Gently stir until completely combined and all ingredients are coated in white chocolate and then transfer to the prepared baking sheet and spread into one even layer.
- 5. Allow it to firm in fridge and then break up and enjoy!

#### **PRAYER**

Dear Lord, thank you so much for the peace you offer. In you we can find tranquility and understanding. With you we find reconciliation. You are truly sovereign and worthy of worship. Amen

#### **SERVICE**

Think about how the prophets in the Bible foretold about a Promised Savior that was to come, the one who would bring peace to the earth and salvation to all.

Share the Good News with someone this week that Jesus is coming! Invite someone to Christmas Eve worship with Pulaski Heights at 2,4,6,8,or 11pm!

#### **MUSIC & SONG**

Prince of Peace by Monica Scott

Peace be still Peace is here
Still Still Angels near
On this night Shepherds meek

Heaven's Light Wisemen seek

Peace (Alleluia) Peace on Earth

Peace (Alleluia) Savior's birth

Prince of Peace Heavenly peace

Healer of Men We will keep

Peace Again

Peace Prince of Peace

You can read these words and listen to this beautiful children's song by going to phumc.com/adventmusic. What imagery of peace does this song invite you to think about? How does this fit into the world? What can you do to seek peace like the children sing about?

#### **CRAFT**

Decorate and cut out the ornament for "Prince of Peace" in the back of this booklet











## Christmas Ve December 24, 2021



Contemporary
Wesley Hall + 2:00 pm

Children's Morship Great Hall + 4:00 pm

Tradilional
Sanctuary
6:00pm \* 8:00pm \* 11:00pm

