



AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING



*New Castle Presbyterian Church's
Advent 2025 Devotional*

Welcome to NCPC's 2025 Advent devotional! Each week, through Epiphany, we'll focus on a Christmas Carol and sing about God's gift of the Christ Child.

We have included QR codes for you to sing the hymns and listen to the Hark! Podcast. These codes will take you to YouTube and Spotify, but you can also find hymn recordings and the podcast using an internet search engine.

Come worship Christ the newborn King!

- Pastor Miriam

November 30-December 6

AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL



Most Christmas Eve worship services open with this hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful! We open our Advent series by hearing a cosmic call to worship our 'God of God, Light of Light'.



During this week of hope, let us join with the heavenly chorus to sing God's praise. Follow this QR code to sing this hymn!

Holy God, heaven and earth may pass away, but your realm is eternal and your promise is sure. Lighten our hearts with hope as our redeemer draws near. May we heed the signs of our times, so that we join with your creation to praise Christ, our friend and savior. Amen.

 Learn about the background of this hymn through Hark!



 Share with someone: what made you feel hopeful today?

 Color or light the first Advent candle for HOPE and pray for someone in need of God's hope.

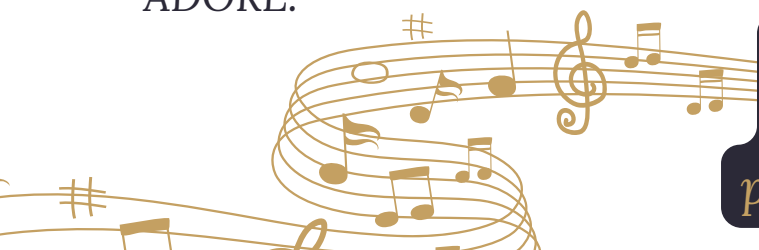
Each day this week, pick a 'musical note' activity and discover Christ's hope!

 The hymn invites us to come and ADORE Christ. Write an acrostic poem for the word ADORE.

 Take a prayer walk and listen for heaven and nature singing of God's hope.



"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." - Matthew 1:20





December 7 - 13

AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING: SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

When Mary and Joseph laid their sleeping, swaddled child in a manger, they must have let out a sigh of relief. What a heavy responsibility to care for the newborn Son of God. They too join us in praying: Sleep! Sleep in heavenly peace!



During this week of peace, we pray for all who need a break, all who need a breather, all who need to glimpse God's "dawn of redeeming grace" in the midst of heavy responsibilities. Follow this QR code to sing and pray for God's peace.

Holy God, into our noisy, unfaithful world, you send messengers to proclaim your peace and your truth. Fill our lives with your righteousness, that we would participate in preparing your world for the coming of Christ, your Son. Give us opportunities for holy silence in which we might glimpse your dawn of redeeming grace. Amen.

 Learn about the background of this hymn through Hark!



 Share with someone: what made you feel peaceful today?

 Take an evening prayer walk and listen to the sounds of God's dark, sacred night.



Each day this week, pick a 'musical note' activity and discover Christ's peace!

 What does a silent night look like? Paint or draw what you imagine.

 Color or light the second Advent candle for PEACE and pray for someone in need of God's peace.

"Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." - Luke 1:78-79



December 14 - 20

AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING: JOY TO THE WORLD



At the end of our Christmas Eve service, we lift our candles high and joyfully sing that the Lord has come! What does Christ's birth mean for the world?

In Luke 1, Mary joyfully sings of Christ's coming reign, where the powerful will be cast down and the lowly lifted up.



As we prepare to welcome Christ into our hearts and homes this Christmas, we join the song of God's joy breaking into the world. Follow this QR code as we joyfully sing of God's salvation: "No more let sins and sorrows grow!"

*Holy God, you are the God of generations whose promises surprise us still.
Fill our hearts with joy and our dreams with visions of new life in Christ.
May we greet your gracious promise with hearts that leap for joy
through Christ, your Word, fulfilled. Amen.*

 Learn about the background of this hymn through Hark!



 Take a prayer walk and listen to heaven and nature sing of God's joy.

 What does joy look like? Make a collage with images or words that make you feel God's joy.

Each day this week, pick a 'musical note' activity and discover Christ's joy!

 Share with someone: what made you feel joyful today?

 Color or light the third Advent candle for JOY and pray for someone in need of God's joy.



"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my soul rejoices in God my Savior'." - Luke 1:46



December 21 - 24

AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING: GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

The angels' news of Christ's birth fills the world and our own hearts with God's love. In Luke 2, the shepherds traveled with haste to find Mary, Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. They shared the good news with all whom they met, including Jesus' mother, Mary, who "treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart."



This African American spiritual calls us to journey with the shepherds and share this message of love, no matter the obstacles before us. Go, tell it!

May God's love keep on transforming our world, until all of God's people are free!

Holy God, you come among us to lead us in paths of righteousness.

Guide our feet to the mountains and beyond, spreading your Word so that all may live as your freed and forgiven children. Enlighten us and enliven us so that we would treasure and share the love of Christ, Savior of the world. Amen.

Jesus loves me, and
Jesus loves you!
Write a note this
week to someone
needing a reminder
of God's love.

Take a prayer walk and
listen to heaven and
nature sing of God's love.

Share with
someone: what
made you feel
loved today?

**Each day this week, pick a
'musical note' activity and
discover Christ's love!**

Color or light the fourth
Advent candle for LOVE and
pray for someone in need of
God's love.

Learn about the
background of
this hymn
through Hark!



*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid,
for see, I am bringing you good news of great
joy for all the people." - Luke 2:10*



December 25 - January 5



AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING: WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

It's a curious question that we sing: *what child is this?* It is not, whose child or which child? What child challenges us to state the incredible truth that God came to us in the form of a lowly child, guarded by poor shepherds.



Christ lies in 'mean estate,' but we also sing that he is King! In this contradiction, the light of Christ shines brightly; the Word made flesh reveals God's world-transforming salvation! During these twelve days of Christmas, we get to ask and hear of God's love for us in the Christ Child. Come sing of this wondrous child!

Holy God, at an unexpected hour you sent an unlikely liberator to an undeserving world.

What child is this? Christ - our savior, our king, your light for the world.

Help us to keep asking questions and seeking answers in you, so that all the world would know your unfailing justice, your unfathomable grace, and your unlimited love.

Hear our unending praise. Thank you for Christ, whose light shines in the darkness! Amen.

 Share with someone:
what made you feel
close to Jesus today?

 What child is this? Inspired by this hymn,
draw a manger scene or write a prayer that
asks God to help you answer this question.

**Each day this week, pick a
'musical note' activity and
discover Christ's light!**

 Learn about the
background of
this hymn
through
Hark!



 Take a prayer walk and
listen to heaven and
nature sing of
Emmanuel, God with Us.

 Color or light the
Christ candle
and pray
for someone
in need of
God's
light.



*"And Mary treasured all these words and
pondered them in her heart." - Luke 2:19*





January 6

AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING: WE THREE KINGS

In Matthew's gospel, the Magi visit Jesus approximately two years after his birth. In our church calendar, we celebrate the Magi's visit on January 6, twelve days after Christmas. The Magi bring gifts that celebrate who Christ is; as the song puts it, Christ is "King, God, and Sacrifice." We join with these wealthy, learned astrologers to be guided by Christ's perfect light. As they came to worship him, we too come knowing our need for direction and courage to stand up to unjust earthly rulers.. The Magi go home by another way; may Christ also shape our journey to follow him out in the world.



Holy God, help us to follow Christ's perfect light.

*May we join with him in finding the lost, healing the broken,
feeding the hungry, releasing the prisoner, rebuilding the nations,
bringing peace to others, and making music in our world.*

*May we join with all creation in singing Christ's praises. Alleluia! Alleluia!
We pray in the name of Christ, our King, our God, our Sacrifice. Amen.*

 Draw three gift boxes. Then write or draw on them three gifts that God has given you to share with others in Christ's name.

 Share with someone: How is Christ calling you to do the work of Christmas in your community?

 Share with someone: what gifts do you bring Christ this Epiphany?

Each day this week, pick a 'musical note' activity and follow Christ's light!

 Take a prayer walk and listen to heaven and nature singing Alleluia!

 Learn about the background of this hymn through Hark!



"When the magi saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy." - Matthew 2:10



NCPC DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

November 30	First Sunday of Advent
December 13	Spirit of Christmas
December 17	Longest Night Service
December ?	Caroling in New Castle
December 24	Christmas Eve Services Family Worship at 5pm & Traditional at 7:30 pm
December 28	First Sunday of Christmas

For times and more information, contact us at
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