

advent week one

day one, sunday, november 28th-
hope/spaciousness

Each year many churches celebrate Advent by lighting an Advent wreath. Each week a different candle is lit until we arrive at Christmas Eve when we light the center candle- the Christ candle.

The candles around the wreath each represent a different aspect of our faith journey. The traditional themes are hope, peace, joy, and love. For each Sunday of our Advent devotion, we will rename these focuses to encourage us to embody these traditional aspects of our faith in new ways this year.

The focuses will be:

Spaciousness - helping us to embody hope

Contemplation - helping us to embody peace

Commitment - helping us to embody joy

Imagination - helping us to embody love

The first focus is Spaciousness. Spaciousness is making space for others. If you have an Advent candle, light it and say: "There is space in myself for you." (Light Candle)

Each day we have many opportunities to be spacious, to sacrifice our time, to sit in suffering with others, to set aside our agenda, or to freely offer forgiveness when we have been hurt. When we create space for others in ourselves we also create a place of hope where real relationships can be formed. This is exactly what God has done through Jesus for us. God makes space in God's self for us in Christ. In Jesus we experience the fullness of God's love and grace. This is our deepest hope as Christians. In Jesus we experience the spaciousness of a God who says there is space in myself for you.

REFLECT: Consider how you can live into spaciousness as we begin Advent this week.

PRAYER: Spacious God, may we celebrate who we are as we celebrate who you are this Advent season. Thank you for the hope that comes to us in the space you have made for us in you through Jesus Christ. May we in turn offer that same hope to others as we seek to be more spacious in our own lives. May we always be willing to say: There is space in myself for you.