**Children’s Bulletin**

**First Parish Congregational Church**

**DECEMBER 13, 2020**







Please gather the following (optional) items to help you worship today:

* Drawing paper
* Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
* You’ll also find an additional activity pages for use during the sermon on the final pages of this Children’s Bulletin

**Words of Welcome**

#### Go around the room and greet each person (and pet!) with a Good Morning and Happy Third Week of Advent!

#### See the source image

#### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

***“Once in Royal David’s City”***

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,

Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.

Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

***“Good Christian Friends”***

Good Christian friends rejoice, with heart and soul and voice.

Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!

Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

***“Away in a Manger”***

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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay

close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,

and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

***“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”***

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn 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!”

***“Some Children See Him”***

Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night,

Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown, The Lord of heaven to

earth come down;

Some children see Him bronzed and brown, With dark and heavy hair.

Some children see Him almond-eyed, This Savior whom we kneel beside.

Some children see Him almond-eyed, With skin of yellow hue.

Some children see Him dark as they, Sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray.

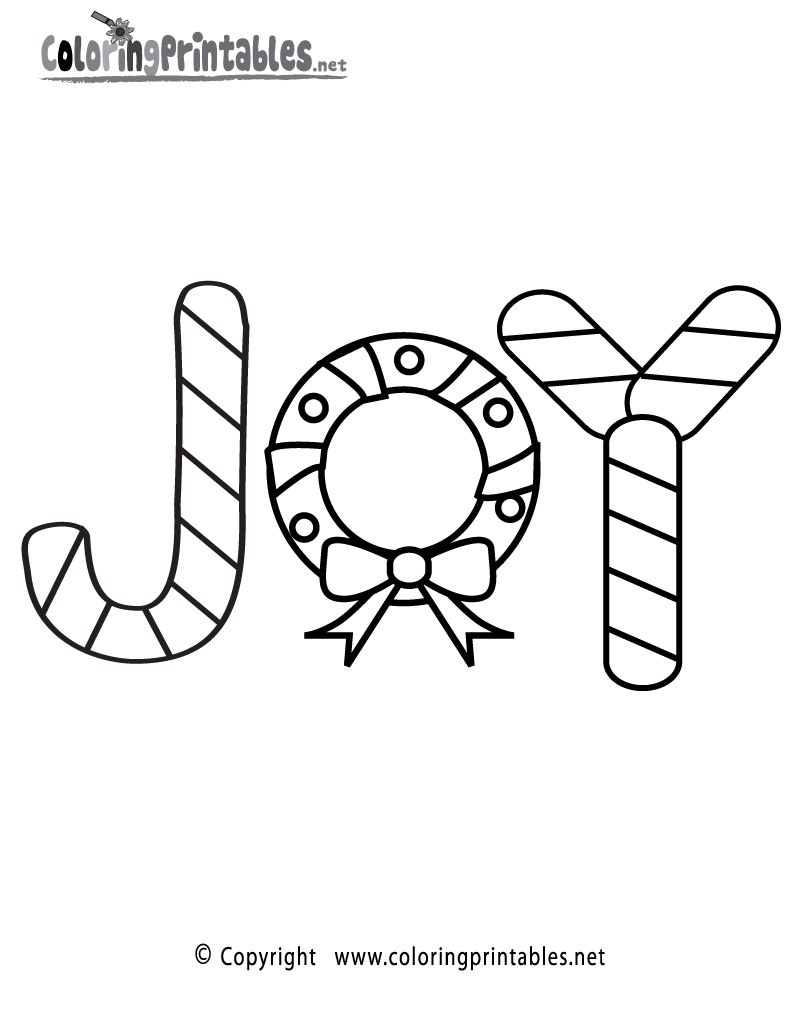
Some children see him dark as they, And, ah! they love Him, too!

The children in each different place Will see the baby Jesus' face

Like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace, And filled with holy light.

O lay aside each earthly thing And with thy heart as offering,

Come worship now the infant King. 'Tis love that's born tonight!



**CALL TO WORSHIP and LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE - JOY**

One: We gather around wreaths to pray our lost hopes, broken peace, limited joys, and love so hard to find and share in this season of *coronavirus*.    
We affirm that our candles demonstrate how we claim the power to call this season Advent, *that time* when God’s light comes into the world and nothing can overcome it. We light the candles of hope and peace.

**(The candle of HOPE and the candle of PEACE are now lit.)**

**Many: We will light the candle of joy today in spite of missing so many things we thought were essential to a merry Christmas *–* things like *shopping and parties: photos with Santa and chances to hug.***

One: God’s joy cannot be extinguished.

**(The candle of JOY is lit.)**

God’s joy will ignite its embers under great loss and sorrow this year; and God’s joy will brighten the path to love.

**Many:**  **Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come, lighting hope, peace and joy on the wick of our lives so that we may shine on our world with a simple smile, an unexpected laughter. Amen**

**HYMN #102 “Oh How Shall I Receive” You vs. 1, 2**

O how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way,

Blessed hope of every people, my soul’s delight and stay?

O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light.

To know what e’er is pleasing and welcome in your sight.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you unto me.

Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty,

O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace

In love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

**INVOCATION (Read by Lay Reader. Please join in at home.)**

**Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation, as we remember your promises and look forward to your winks into our lives. Strengthen us for the journey by renewing within us the gifts of your Holy Spirit: hope, peace and joy. We give thanks for your abiding Presence. Amen.**

\***SONG OF PRAISE #125 Angels We Have Heard on High (Refrain)**

 Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**Time Especially for Children**

Let’s sing “Jesus loves me”

Come in close and bring your listening ears

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:

**What were some words that stuck out to you during Children’s Time?**

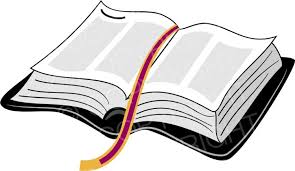
**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION** followed by

**THE LORD’S 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

**Scripture Reading**

**OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 61: 1-4; 8-11**

1The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,   
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;  
**2**to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;  
    to comfort all who mourn; **3**to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
**4**They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

**8**For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. **9**Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
    and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge  
    that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

**10**I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. **11**For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
    and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Sermon : “Choose These: A Garland, The Oil of Praise, The Mantle of Praise”

**During this time, as you listen to the sermon, please enjoy the activities found on the last pages of the Children’s Bulletin**

**HYMN #283 Spirit of the Living God**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

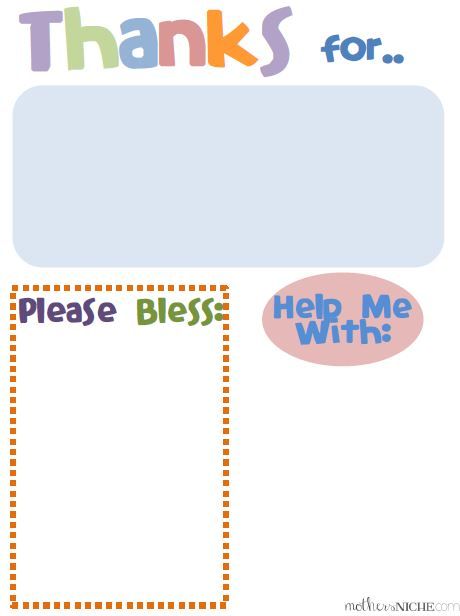
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (Sing twice through.).

**Invitation to Generosity**: Think about how you would like to give to others, yourself and your family this week to show how you love yourself and others just like God loves us

**DOXOLOGY # 780 Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below,

Praise God above you heavenly hosts Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

**Sharing Joys and Concerns: Do you have a Joy or Concern you’d like to share with the congregation? Fill out the box above and let us know….**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (lay reader)

We bring gifts to your children, O God, and we ask that you bless and multiply our efforts. May the brokenhearted be comforted and may the hungry be fed. May the lonely be accompanied and may the stranger be welcomed. Thank you, God, for the blessings we now share. Amen.

**WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD**



**HYMN # 117 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates**

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!

The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

**BENEDICTION:** The Pastor often will give a benediction at the end of service. This is like a special prayer asking for God’s help, guidance and blessing over everyone before the end of service.

**POSTLUDE** : “**Go now in peace. Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.”** *Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth, © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.; All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-708716.*



