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Integrative Project
Old Testament

Order for Worship

(Wednesday, December 1st)

Service of the Word

Brief Order of Confession

L: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

L: It is time to wake from sleep. Salvation is near! Let us make confession to God.
(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: Faithful God,

C: we confess that in thought, word, and deed that we have turned away from you. We have not eagerly expected your coming. We have been slow to serve you and our neighbor. Restore us, God of might. Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen

L: Lay aside the works of the night; put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Strengthen your hearts, for God is with us to save us from our sins. Almighty God grant you forgiveness, keep you in the grace of Christ Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with joy and hope.

C: Amen

Opening Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway LBW 26

Prayer of the Day

L: Blessed Son, revive us with your power and protect us from our sins and the sins of others. Deliver us into your kingdom, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

L: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen

(The first advent candle is lit)

Readings

Psalm 25: 1-9

Luke 21: 25-36

Homily

Offering / Presentation of the Gifts

L: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior.

C: Amen

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

L: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying LBW 31

Dismissal

L: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Wednesday, December 8th)

Service of the Word

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

(same as other services)

Opening Hymn

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending WOV 762

Prayer of the Day

L: Gracious Father, send us out to be your servants so that we may prepare the way for the coming of your Son. Let your Spirit descend upon us in order that we may speak your Word to your people, in Your name we pray.

C: Amen

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

L: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen

(The second candle is lit)

Readings

Psalm 147: 1-12

Isaiah 6: 1-13

Homily

Offering / Presentation of the Gifts

(Same as above)

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

(Same as above)

Closing Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, O Gates WOV 631

Dismissal

L: Go in peace, to prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Wednesday, December 15th)

Service of the Word and Sacrament

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Brief silence)

L: Gracious God

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

L: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen

Opening Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers LBW 25

Prayer of the Day

L: Most Merciful Father, through your work you have promised us eternal life with your Son. We praise your name in gratitude for this gift and seek to live our lives' according to the Scriptures while we await the appearance of Your Son upon this earth. In Your Name we pray.

C: Amen

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

L: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's Advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen

(The third candle is lit)

Readings

Psalm 67

2 Peter 1: 1-11

Homily

Offering / Presentation of Gifts

(Same as above)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

(Here the worshipping group will just hear the Words of Institution and then speak the Lord's Prayer. Following this, the presiding minister will invite the group forward to partake in Holy Communion)

Benediction

(same as other services)

Closing Hymn

Go, My Children, with My Blessing WOV 721

Dismissal

L: Go in peace to dwell upon the promise.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

(Wednesday, December 22nd)

Service of the Word

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

(Same as first two services)

Opening Hymn

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel LBW 34

Prayer of the Day

L: O God of all power, we glorify your name for the gift of the Word made flesh, Your Son, Jesus Christ. He walked upon the earth with us and will do so once again. May we remain faithful to Your Word as we await the coming day.

C: Amen

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

L: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen

(The fourth candle is lit)

Readings

Psalm 18: 1-20

Luke 1: 39-48a

Homily

Offering / Presentation of the Gifts

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

(Same as above)

Closing Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came WOV 632

Dismissal

L: Go in peace to glorify God's name.

C: Thanks be to God!

Homily

Can you believe it? Less than a week until Christmas time! Kids, are you ready to open your presents awaiting you under the Christmas tree? Have you eaten all of your grandmother's warm, delicious Christmas cookies? Parents, are you tired out from all your shopping and your fight through the traffic? But, are you still ready to venture out for those day after Christmas sales? Are you ready... wait a minute, I think I am getting wrapped up in the commercialism of the holiday season. I am so caught in the middle of it that I have neglected the fact that we are in the Advent season – the time where we prepare for the coming of Christ. Advent is the season directly before the birth of Jesus Christ, the time where we receive the purest and best gift given to us in this world. Together, we prepare the way for Christ's advent.

Now, for some of us (including myself) this preparation for Christ is a little confusing. Are we preparing for the liturgical seasons to follow advent – that is, His birth at Christmas, and the seasons following that time: Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and so on? Or, are we preparing for something greater, something that, in this day and age, is very difficult for us to comprehend – the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. How will God reveal Himself in those coming days?

Well, the ironic factor that lies amidst our own questions is the conceptualization of God. The way the ancient people thought God and the way God appeared on earth 2,000 years ago are very different. In our two readings for this evening, we have two opposing images of God and how He will enter into this world to save His people from the turmoil of their sins. In Psalm 18, we have the all powerful, mighty God – the warrior! We have the God who will free His people using force and strength, who will deliver them from their oppressor thereby granting salvation. However, in the reading from Luke, we find out that God is confined to the boundaries of His mother's womb. He has to be born as a fragile baby in order for His entry into our world. What kind of God is that? How can God come into this world as a baby? Babies need to be taken care of constantly to ensure their survival! But that is what our Lord did for us; He came among us as one of us, and did not just reach down from the heavens to rescue us. He was born as a man, He lived His life as a man, and He eventually died a gruesome death as a man. He was not an unreachable, transcendent being that watched us from Heaven.

And now, we must continue to prepare for that time when He will be among us again. We must prepare each year for Christ's next advent, His next arrival here on earth. Are you ready?

Children's Service

Leader: Welcome as we gather to prepare the way for the birth of baby Jesus. Tonight we will light the 1st candle of our advent wreath, a circle of evergreens that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. (Substitute 1st with 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, each week)

Before we light our advent wreath, let's sing the song:

"This Little Light of Mine"

**This little light of mine,
I'm gonna' to let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna' let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna' let it shine.
Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!**

**Let's prepare the way,
As we light this candle to shine!
Let's prepare the way,
As we light this candle to shine!
Let's prepare the way,
As we light this candle to shine!
Watch it shine! Watch it shine! Watch it shine!**

Leader:

(1st week) The first candle we will light is the candle for us to watch..

(2nd week) The second candle we light is the candle to prepare the way..

(3rd week) The third candle we light is the candle to rejoice.

(4th week) The fourth candle we light is the candle to behold!.

(Have an older volunteer come forward each evening to light the appropriate candles.)

Prayer (this prayer will be said each week): Dear Lord, as we prepare for the arrival of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we ask that You strengthen us as He approaches. Grant us the ability to pave the way so that others may know about Your Son. Amen.

(Following the prayer, the children will begin their craft)

Advent Crafts

#1 ~ Advent Wreath Banner

Focus: Advent is the time before Christmas when preparations are made to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve.

Items Needed:

18" by 12" piece of muslin cloth

Green Fabric Paint

3 Blue Advent Candles, 1 Pink Advent Candle (Precut)

4 Yellow Flames (Precut)

1 24" Dowel Rod



Children will paint with green fabric paint a wreath on the cloth by using their hands. They will glue the first advent candle and flame on the wreath and then be instructed to add a new candle each week thereafter. They will stencil "Prepare the Way!" at the top of the banner using a precut stencil and they will stencil 2004 at the bottom.

#2 ~ Joy to the World Magnet

Focus: We should sing about the coming of Jesus!

Items Needed:

Metal Juice Can Lid
Masking Tape
Peeled Crayons in Shades of Blue and Green
Blue Gel Glue
Sticky Back Magnet
Colored Pasta Craft Letters
Gold Ribbon
Cookie Sheet Aluminum Foil



Step #1 – Cover the cookie sheet with foil to protect it. Put the lid on the foil and cover the lid with pieces of blue crayon. This will be the water on the earth. Put pieces of a green crayon on top of the blue crayon at the center part of the lid to look like the land on earth.

Step #2 – Ask a grown up to put the lid in a 350 degree oven for two minutes to melt the crayon. After the grown-up removes the project from the oven, let it cool for a few minutes to harden.

Step #3 – Find the letters to spell “Joy to the World.” Squeeze a line of blue glue gel on the front of the world for each word. Glue the letters in place. When the glue dries, the letters will not be stuck to the melted crayon background, but they will be stuck together to spell each word.

Step #4 – Arrange the words on the front of the world. Cut a 4-inch square of plastic wrap. Wrap the world tightly in the wrap to hold the words in place. Secure the wrap to the back of the world with masking tape and add a strip of sticky back magnet, which will help to hold the wrap in place.

Step#5 – Put a tiny piece of masking tape at the top of the world. Cut an 8-inch length of ribbon. Tie the ribbon in a bow and trim the ends. Glue the bow to the top of the world.

#3 ~ Ribbon Angel

Focus: Angels are very prominent in the story of Christmas and Angels proclaimed the news that Jesus was born.

Items Needed:

Thin white ribbon
Foil Cupcake Wrapper
Markers
Yellow Pipe Cleaner
Stiff Cardboard
Thin Yellow Ribbon



Step #1 – Cut a 4-inch (10cm) square of cardboard. Wrap the white ribbon around the cardboard 20 times, and then cut the end off from the spool.

Step #2 – Cut a 5-inch (13cm) piece of ribbon. Thread the ribbon under the wrapped ribbon at one end of the cardboard. Tie the ribbon in a knot around the wrapped ribbon. Gather it together as tight as possible slide ribbon off the cardboard.

Step #3 – Cut the front and back of the wrapped ribbon apart at the bottom to make the bottom of the dress of the angel. Trim the edge to even the ends of the ribbons out.

Step #4 – Wrap more white ribbon around the cardboard square 12 times for the arms.

Step #5 – Cut two 5-inch pieces of ribbon off the cardboard. Slide the wrapped ribbon off the cardboard and tie each end with a piece of ribbon in a knot to make the bow. Cut each end of the wrapped ribbon open to make hands.

Step #6 – Draw a face with markers on a wooden bead. Glue on yarn bits for hair. Glue the folded end of the dress up inside the hole.

Step #7 – Slide the ribbon arms up between the front and back ribbons of the dress. Cut a 5 inch piece of ribbon. Tie it around the dress below the arms to make the waist.

Step #8 – Fold the cupcake wrapper in half. Cut the folded wings for the angel. Glue the two wings on the back of the angel.

Step #9 – Shape a halo for the angel from the yellow pipe cleaner with a 1 inch piece sticking down from the halo.

#4 – Peaceful Dove Ornament

Focus: The purpose of this craft is to remind us that Jesus birth brought a message of love to the world.

Items Needed:

Peanut
White Glue
White Poster
Plastic margarine tub for mixing
Clear Glitter
Scissors
White & Yellow Felt Scraps
Two Blue Seed Beads
Styrofoam Tray
Metallic Thread
Computer cutout with the word "Peace" in a bubble.



Step #1 – Mix one part of white paint with one part of glue in the margarine tub. Paint the peanut white and immediately sprinkle with the clear glitter.

Step #2 – Fold the white felt in half and cut a tiny wing for a dove on the fold. Open the cut wing to get two wings. Glue the part where the two wings meet to the center of one side of the peanut.

Step #3 – Cut a 6-inch (15cm) piece of metallic thread. Tie the two ends together to make a hanger. Slip one end of the hanger under the wings to secure the hanger to the bird.

Step #4 – Cut a tail for the bird from the white felt. Glue the tail to one end of the peanut.

Step #5 – Cut a tiny triangle beak form the yellow felt. Glue the beak to the head of the bird. Glue on the two seed beads for eyes.

Step #6 – Cut the word peace and glue it to the beak of the bird.