

Seasonal Notebook - ACE

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany



ACE 2018-2019 (Year C)

Planning: September/October, 2018

Implementation: December 2, 2018 - March 3, 2019

SEASON SUMMARY

Advent

Advent begins a new liturgical year. It is a season of waiting and anticipation. We await both the birth of the promised Messiah, Jesus the Christ, and we also look ahead to the return of Christ and the reign of Christ's peace, justice, and righteousness. Advent texts will bring us closer to the birth of Jesus, but they begin where we left off with the Reign of Christ Sunday - with apocalyptic texts. We are always reminded that what we await is far more than Jesus' birth, but the ushering in of a new heaven and new earth. While it is often tempting to get into the "holiday spirit" with Christmas songs, the four weeks of Advent encourage us to wait, and to experience the tension of waiting for that which we know is coming, the reign of Christ. The color for Advent has traditionally been Purple, which represents repentance, but some churches have moved towards Royal Blue to separate it more in tone and focus from the season of Lent.

Christmas

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. It begins on December 25, and the season of Christmas continues through Epiphany - 12 days. We have just one or two Sundays in the Christmas season each year, which are especially appropriate times for singing those beloved Christmas carols. The liturgical color is White.

Epiphany

Epiphany is January 6, and it celebrates the visit of the Magi to Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. It ends with Transfiguration Sunday, which is always the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, where Jesus was transfigured on the mountaintop. The season of Epiphany is technically part of Ordinary Time, but there is an arc of God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ. First, the star that guides the Magi to Jesus indicates that this baby is not any ordinary baby. The second week brings a story of Jesus' baptism, where he is revealed to be the Son of God. Following weeks share stories of miracles or other ways that Jesus is revealed to be God incarnate, and finally the scene of transfiguration is a visible sign of Jesus' divinity. Epiphany begins in

White through the Baptism of Christ Sunday, then goes to Green, and back to White for Transfiguration Sunday. The length of the season varies depending on where Easter falls in the calendar.

Christmas Joy Offering

This is a denominational special offering that supports Racial/Ethnic Schools with ties to the PC(USA) as well as the Assistance Fund of the Board of Pensions. It is often received on the 4th Sunday of Advent, but can be received over multiple Sundays or services.

There are many special events around these seasons, from the weekly Advent wreath lighting to the Christmas Eve service to Epiphany dinners. In recent years we have also had a “Longest Night” service, on or around December 21, which recognizes that for many, this season is not all merry and bright, but often highlights the pain of loss or other struggles. Additional events are at the discretion of the Season Team.

Scripture Readings

1st Sunday of Advent

First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25:1-10

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel Luke 21:25-36

2nd Sunday of Advent

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

Canticle Luke 1:68-79

Second Reading Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

3rd Sunday of Advent

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20

Canticle Isaiah 12:2-6

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Luke 3:7-18

4th Sunday of Advent

First Reading Micah 5:2-5a

Canticle Luke 1:46b-55

Psalms 80:1-7

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Christmas Eve

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96:1-13

Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Christmas Day

Christmas: At Dawn

First Reading Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 97:1-12

Second Reading Titus 3:4-7

Gospel Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20

Christmas: Christmas Day

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98:1-9

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)

Gospel John 1:1-14

1st Sunday after Christmas

First Reading 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Second Reading Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

Epiphany

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Second Reading Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord

First Reading Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Second Reading Acts 8:14-17

Gospel Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time/After the Epiphany

First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Gospel John 2:1-11

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time/After the Epiphany

First Reading Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Gospel Luke 4:14-21

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time/After the Epiphany

First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Gospel Luke 4:21-30

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time/After the Epiphany

First Reading Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

Psalm 138

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel Luke 5:1-11

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time/After the Epiphany

First Reading Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1:1-6

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Gospel Luke 6:17-26

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time/After the Epiphany

First Reading Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Gospel Luke 6:27-38

Transfiguration Sunday

First Reading Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Gospel Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

NOTES

SEASON WORKSHEET

THEME:

WORSHIP AND MUSIC IDEAS

(Overall as well as for particular services - think through music, decor, art, liturgical elements, congregational songs and responses, playground coordination, special services, etc....)

When will we celebrate Communion? (dates need to be approved by the Session)

EDUCATION IDEAS:

(consider all ages and stages, formats, days, times, etc...)

TAKE-HOMES/FAMILY RITUALS:

(each season should have some "take-home" practice or tangible item that can help families connect with the Scriptures and season at home.)

MISSION IDEAS:

(Include denominational offerings, if applicable. Check calendars for regularly scheduled opportunities. Plan or connect with at least one mission opportunity that can be opened up to the congregation for the season)

FELLOWSHIP IDEAS:

PUBLICITY PLANS

(Think of how we can intentionally reach out to our neighbors and community, as well)

PLANS FOR NURTURE, INCLUDING LEADERSHIP FOR ALL AGES

REGULAR VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Liturgists and Communion Servers

The liturgist meets in advance of the worship service with the pastor to plan and lead worship. Members of the Seasonal Team are encouraged to sign up for this, and recruit others who would bring particular gifts to the season and worship services. Any slots unfilled will be filled by the pastor. On days when communion is served, we need 3 ordained elders in addition to the pastor signed up to serve. If the Liturgist is ordained, only 2 additional elders are needed.

Date	Name	Email and Phone Number
12/2		
Server 1		
Server 2		
Server 3		
12/9		
12/16		
12/23		
12/24		
Server 1		
Server 2		
Server 3		
Server 4		
Server 5		
12/30		
1/6		
Server 1		
Server 2		
Server 3		

Date	Name	Email and Phone Number
1/13		
1/20		
1/27		
2/3		
Server 1		
Server 2		
Server 3		
2/10		
2/17		
2/24		
3/3		
Server 1		
Server 2		
Server 3		

Volunteers with Children

Each week a volunteer is needed to sit with the children in the playground and provide nursery backup if needed.

Date	Name	Email and Phone Number
12/2		
12/9		
12/16		
12/23		
12/24		
Second volunteer		

Date	Name	Email and Phone Number
12/30		
1/6		
1/13		
1/20		
1/27		
2/3		
2/10		
2/17		
2/24		
3/3		

Coffee/Fellowship

These volunteers must arrive early enough to set up coffee, tea and snacks. Following fellowship hour the volunteers are required to clean up; including washing dishes, wiping down tables, and throwing away all trash. This can be done by one person/family who comes early and stays late or by two volunteers who split the work.

Date	Name	Email and Phone Number
12/2		
12/9		
12/16		
12/23		
12/24		
12/30		
1/6		
1/13		

Date	Name	Email and Phone Number
1/20		
1/27		
2/3		
2/10		
2/17		
2/24		
3/3		

SPECIAL BUDGETARY NEEDS

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost

MISSION IDEAS (YOU'RE NOT LIMITED TO THESE!)

- Alternative offering to Poinsettias
- Christmas Joy Offering

- Clothes Closet

ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS HERE!

EVALUATION NOTES

What went well? What was “meh”? What didn’t go well? What advice would you give to future teams?