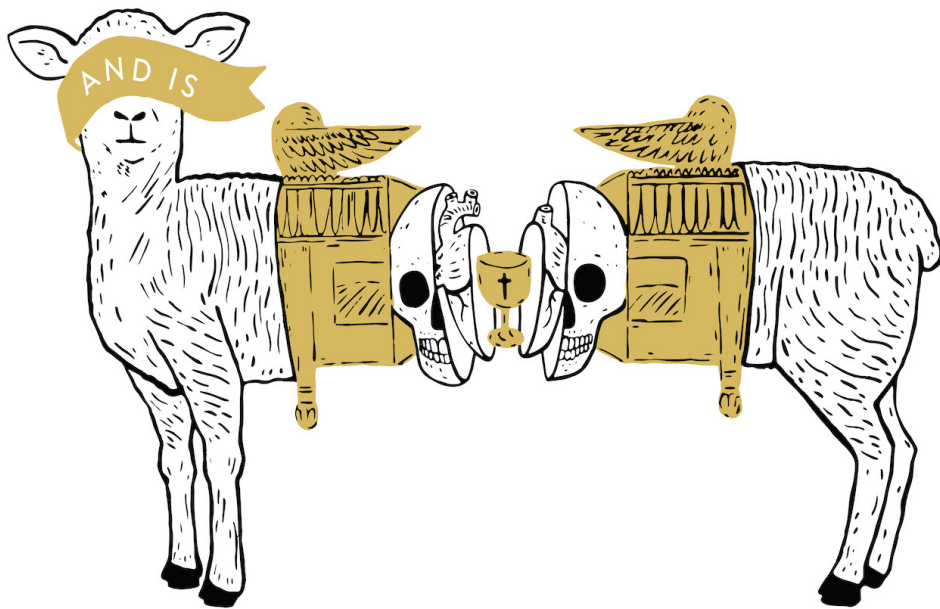
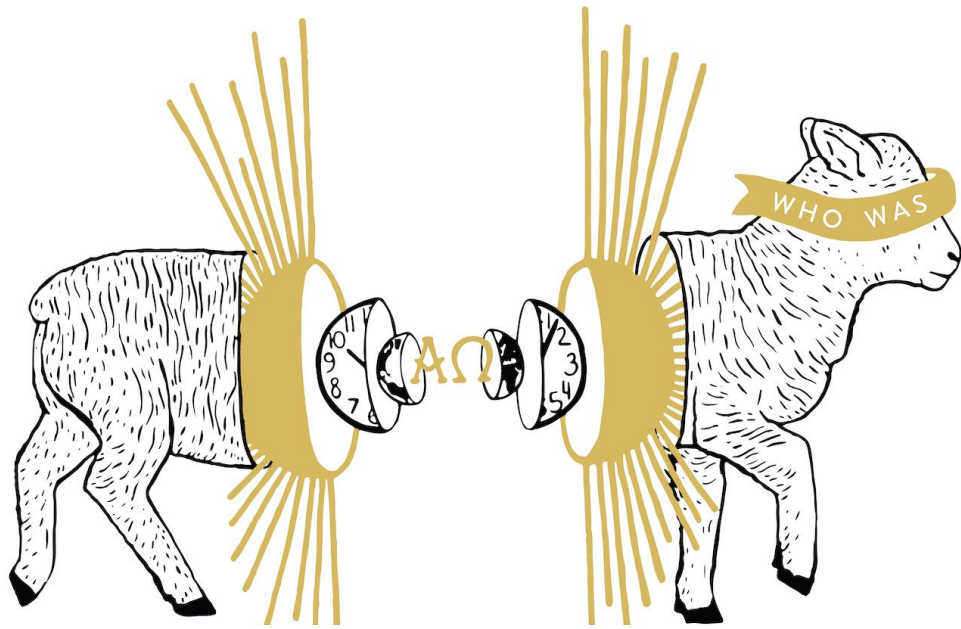


# ADVENT!



KIDS ACTIVITY BOOKLET 2021

**THIS BOOKLET BELONGS TO:**



# THE ALPHA AND OMEGA

## (WHAT SYMBOLS HELP US UNDERSTAND JESUS?)

Jesus is described as the Alpha & Omega - aka the Beginning and the End of all things. But what does Jesus mean to us? The artist of these images gives us some hints to help us understand who Jesus is. Can you find them in the images? Which ones make the most sense to you? Are there any that surprise you?

### LAMB #1 - WHO WAS

- rays The rays you see represent creation. Genesis talks about how when God created the world, there was light. Then in the gospels John talks about Jesus being the Light of the World (John 1).
- clock The clock represents time. We understand that as our creator God holds all time - before we were born, our whole lives, and into the future. God cares about every moment of our lives and knows us in each one. (Psalm 139)
- planet The planet represents Earth. God created all things, including our home - the Earth and everything in it (Psalm 24).
- alpha & omega  $\Lambda\Omega$  are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet or the beginning and the end. It's kind of like saying that Jesus is everything from A to Z! (Revelation 1)

### LAMB #2 - AND IS

- ark of the covenant The Ark of the Covenant represents God's presence with people in the Old Testament. The Israelites carried the ark of the covenant with them as a reminder that God was with them, guiding them and helping them. You can read all about it in the Old Testament.
- skull The skull represents mortality, which is a fancy word for death. Jesus came to take away the power of death and show us God's life. (John 3:16-17)
- heart The heart represents the soul. Jesus plants eternity in our hearts and in him all things live, and move, and have their being. (Ecclesiastes 3; Colossians 1)
- cup The cup represents the eucharist or communion, which is a special meal Jesus gave to his disciples and to us to remember the he was born in a physical body and gave his whole life to make the world (and us) right with God. (1 Corinthians 11)

### LAMB #3 - AND IS TO COME

- church The church represents the communion of saints - that means everyone who loves God, past, present, and into the future (including us!)
- new jerusalem The city wall you see is the New Jerusalem, representing God's restored presence with God's people. (Revelation 21)
- crown The crown represent's God's sovereignty, which is another way of saying that Jesus is in charge of everything as our King. (Philippians 2 & Colossians 1)
- staff The shepherd's staff reminds us that Jesus is our good shepherd - the one who takes care of us, defends us, and leads us. (John 10)
- scales The scales represent God's restored justice. (Zephaniah 3:5)



# LEADER

As we light our Advent candles we sing:  
*Come, be our Light; drive out the darkness.  
Come, Jesus, Come*

## LISTEN CLOSELY!

How many times do you hear each of these words during the service today?

HOPE: PEACE:  
JOY: LOVE:



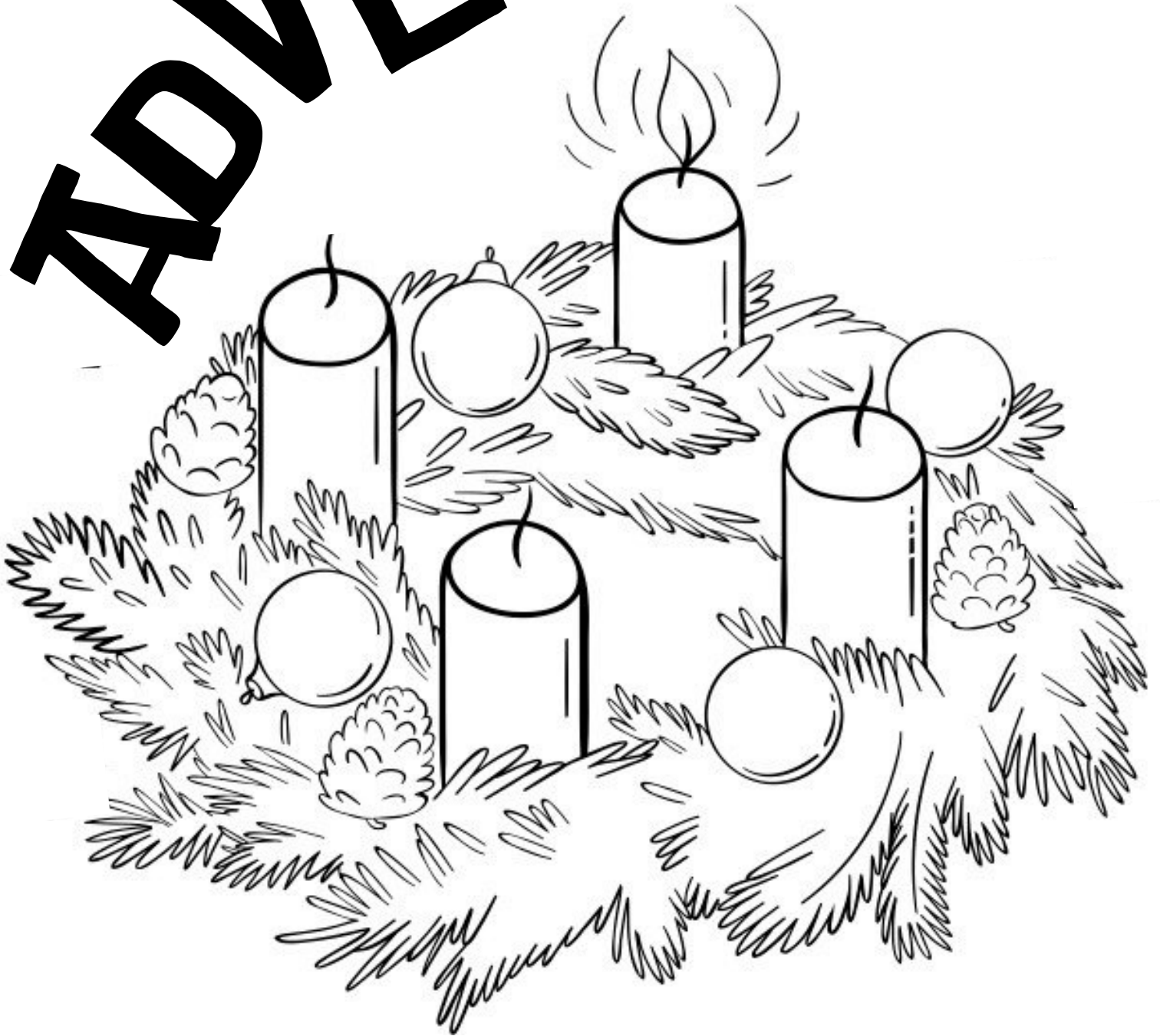
## NAME THESE SOURCES OF LIGHT!



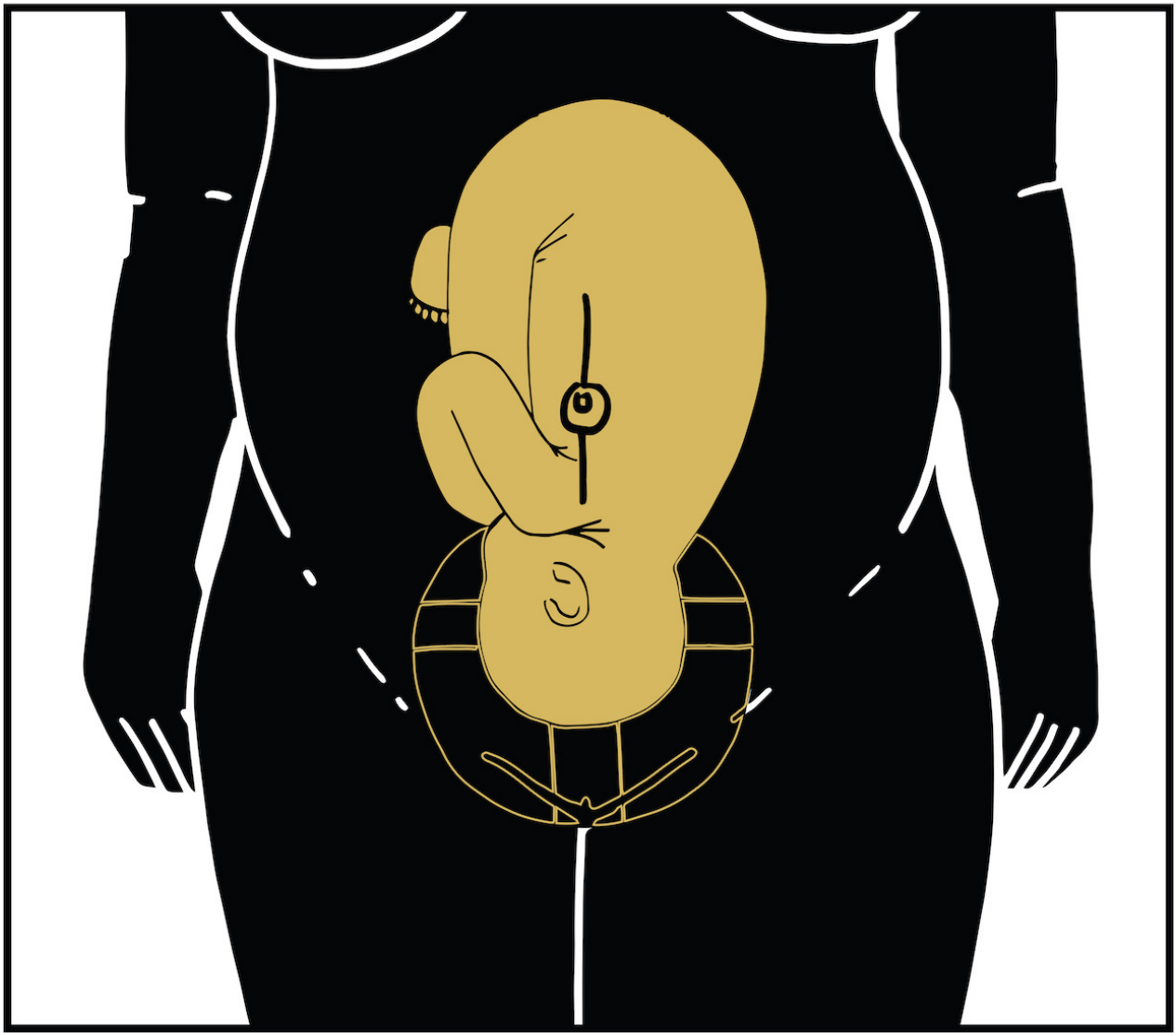
SUN MOON FLASHLIGHT  
LAMP CANDLE  
LIGHTBULB

Did you know that Psalm 36 says that we see light by God's light?  
That light is Jesus!

# ADVENT!



In advent we light 4 candles to represent the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. On Christmas Eve we light a 5th candle - the Christ candle - to represent that Jesus is with us!



# HOPE

**YET I STILL DARE TO HOPE  
WHEN I REMEMBER THIS:**

**GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE NEVER ENDS!  
HIS MERCIES NEVER GIVE UP.  
GREAT IS GOD'S FAITHFULNESS;  
GOD'S MERCIES ARE NEW EVERY MORNING.**

**LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23**

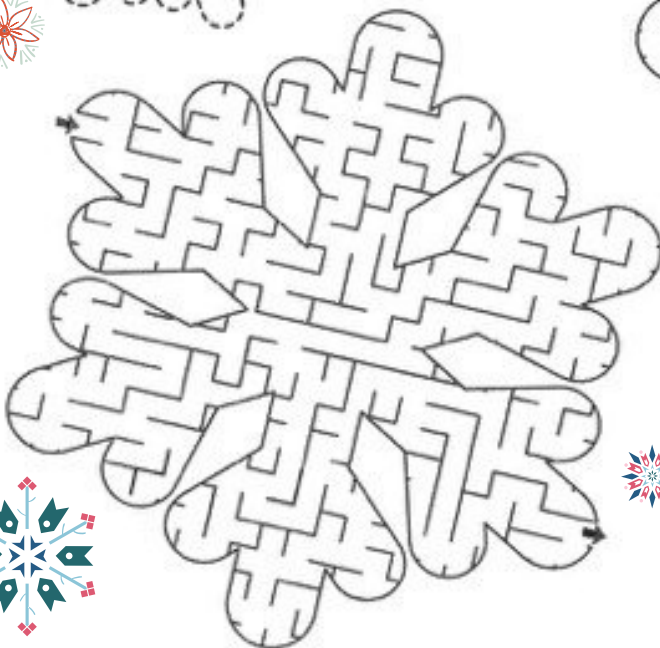
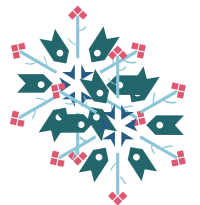
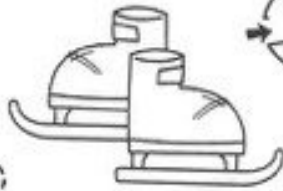
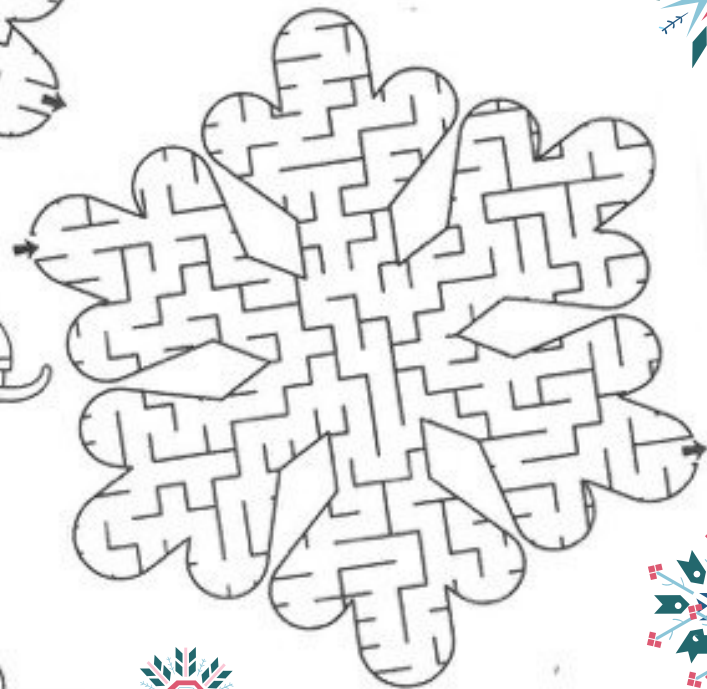
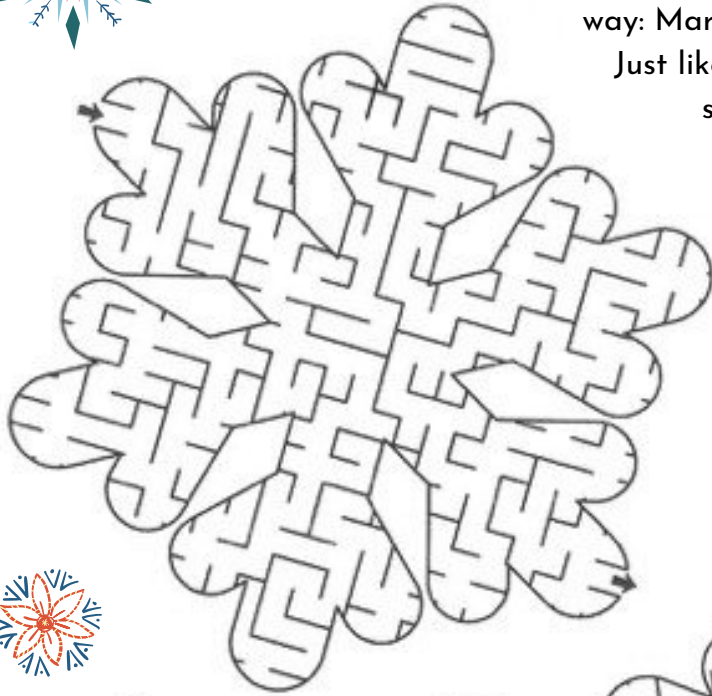
# TWISTS & TURNS



Lots of people in the Nativity story travel a long way: Mary & Joseph, the shepherds, and the Magi. Just like them, we all have our own journeys and stories in life as we pay attention to Jesus.



Try thinking about what their journeys were like as you move through these mazes. What do you think gave them hope in hard times?





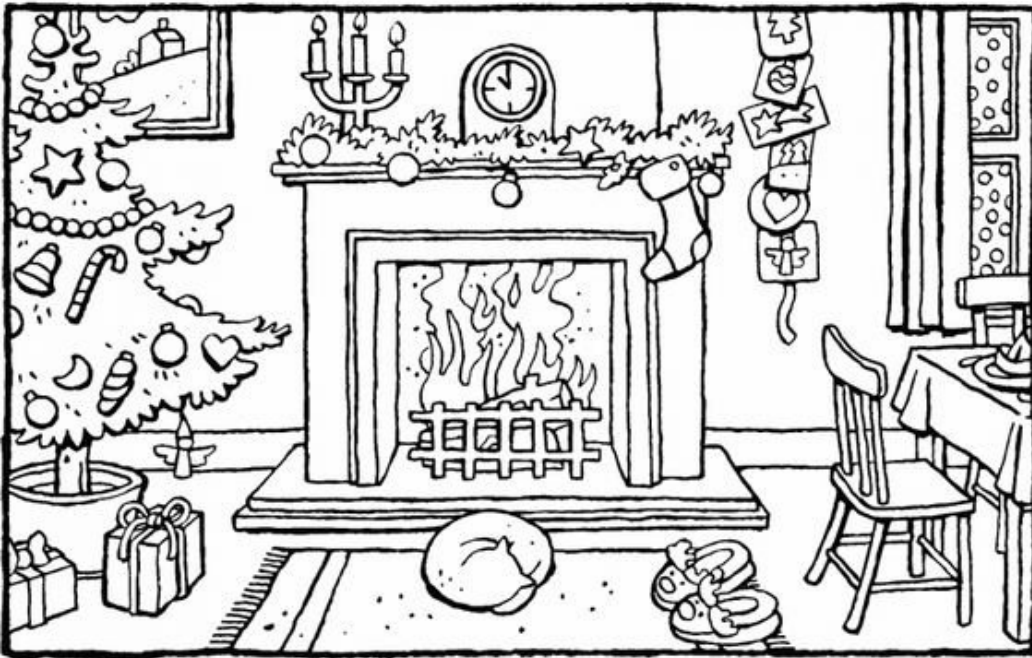
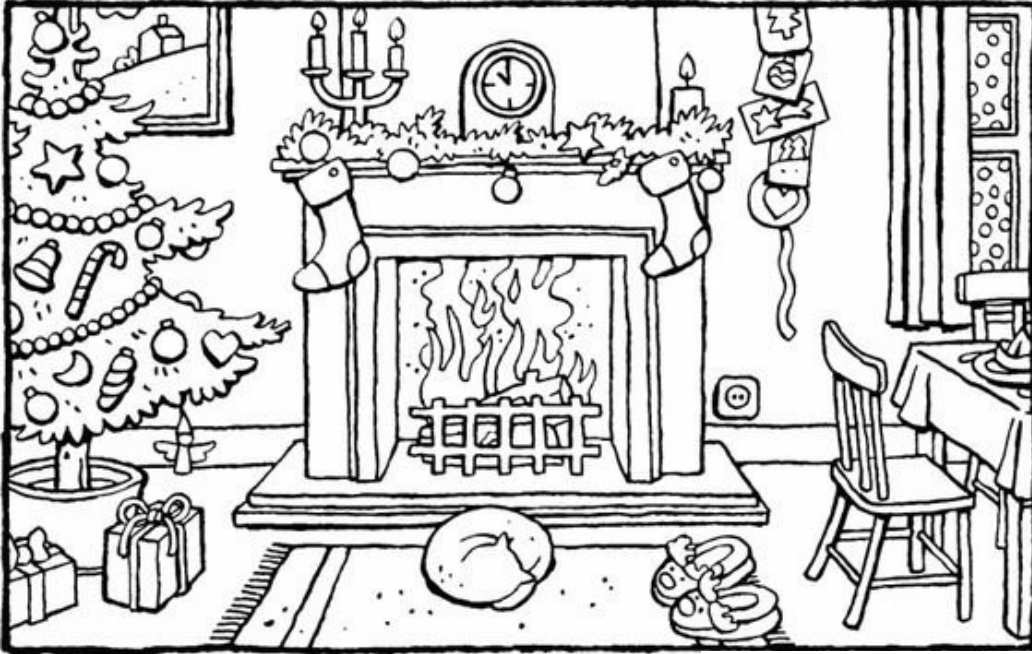
FOR TO \_\_\_\_\_ A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN,  
 AND THE \_\_\_\_\_ WILL BE ON HIS \_\_\_\_\_.  
 AND HE WILL BE CALLED \_\_\_\_\_ COUNSELOR, \_\_\_\_\_ GOD,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ FATHER, \_\_\_\_\_ OF PEACE.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9:6 -

SHOULDERS	GOVERNMENT
WONDERFUL	US
MIGHTY	PRINCE
EVERLASTING	ISAIAH



# ALL IS CALM



CAN YOU SPOT 5 DIFFERENCES IN THE 2 PICTURES?

How would you describe peace?

What helps you to feel peaceful?

What ways do you live into peace?



# Joy

The desert and dry land will become happy.  
 The desert will be glad and will produce flowers.  
 Like a flower, it will have many blooms.  
 It will show its happiness,  
 as if it is shouting with joy...  
 Isaiah 35:1-2

Joy is not 😊 with our present circumstances,  
 but harmony with the 👍 of God  
 and the 🌀 of God's delight in us.

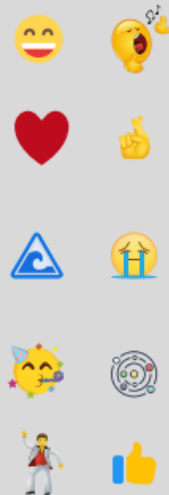
Joy includes the 🌀,  
 and all its beauty and 🏠.

Joy 🧑 with gratitude.

Joy plays with 👉, which is trust in the unseen.

Joy 🗣️ with ❤️, which is self-giving for another,  
 who is the self—a return to wholeness. What 🧑!

This poem ( ← ) was written by Steve  
 Garnaas-Holmes and is our 4th reading  
 today. Can you figure out what the  
 emojis represent before it's read?



# GREAT JOY!

In Luke 1 we read that the news about Jesus brought Mary great joy as she waited for his birth. She was excited for all the good things Jesus would be in the world.

What kinds of things are you looking forward to in Advent?  
What glad things can you thank God for in this season?



pie



cane



fish



drinking glass



candle



trowel



pennant



wishbone



slice of pizza



mushroom



tube of toothpaste



book



turtle



lollipop



screwdriver



cupcake



sailboat



snake



fork



ice-cream cone



rabbit



Can you find these objects in the picture above?



# LOVE

...we should love each other,  
because love comes from God.

1 John 4:7



**WHO ARE THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE?**

**WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU?**

**WHAT KINDS OF THINGS HELP YOU TO FEEL LOVED?**

GOODS

LOVE

has NO


LIMITS


# ASSUMPTIONS


Assumptions are things we guess are true without actually having anything to back them up. We make all kinds of assumptions about who Jesus is and the way Jesus loves us, but sometimes we get it wrong.


Jesus love for us seems too good to be true, but it is true!  
Jesus is God's love for us, coming to live with us!


*Circle an emoji to indicate whether each statement about the Nativity story is true, false, or unknown.*


Mary rode on a donkey.   


The story features an Innkeeper.   


Mary & Joseph travelled to Bethlehem.   


There were 3 Magi.   


A star appeared over the manger.   

Jesus was born in a stable.   

Jesus's middle name was Joseph.   

Jesus & John the Baptist were cousins.   

The Magi arrived the night Jesus was born.   

Jesus was born in December.   







Fill Our Hearts With Joy

As We Wait For You