



ADVENT 2023

WAITING IN WONDER

Wonder is the perfect posture for the seasons of Advent and Christmas— waiting for the miracle of Jesus, embracing these stories of angels and stars and pregnancies, glimpsing the presence of God born in the world around us.



SERVICE	THEME	SCRIPTURE	TIE-IN TO WONDER AWAITS	REFLECTION
Advent 1: Dec 3	Seek wonder	Matthew 2:1-12: the magi follow the star	Wonder is feeling, questioning, noticing. Wonder is all around, if you know how to seek it.	The magi are perfect guides to invite us into a season of waiting in Wonder. They feel, question, notice, seek and find God's presence manifest. As we eagerly await the coming Christchild, may we be attuned to the present glimpses of God-With-Us.
Advent 2: Dec 10	Wonder within	Luke 1:26-38: an angel visits Mary	Get close; get dirty	How much closer does it get than God dwelling in Mary's womb? Her interaction with the holy messenger reminds us that our messiness, our perplexedness, our questions do not exclude us from God's favor. In fact, that is where God is known most intimately.
Advent 3: Dec 17	Wonder challenges	Luke 3:1-18: John the Baptist	Look carefully; look up	John presents a challenge to those willing to receive it—to look carefully at ourselves and repent our own sin and to look out from ourselves to recognize where we are called to respond to suffering. John invites us to let wonder cultivate a spirit of justice and compassion.
Advent 4: am Dec 24	Wonder amaze	Luke 2:8-20: Angels come to the shepherds	Be brave; be curious	When the angels appeared, the shepherds were understandably terrified, but in a spirit of wonder, their bravery and curiosity lead them to be among the first to encounter the Christchild and to spread the wondrous news.
Christmas Eve: pm Dec 24	Wonder is here	John 1:1-14: The Word dwells among us	Be right where you are	The God of all creation is born among us. In wonder, in delight, be here.
Christmastide: Dec 31	Wonder awaits	Luke 2:22-40: Simeon and Anna	Be amazed; I wonder what waits for you	Our wonder shouldn't dim when the lights and baubles are packed away. We carry the wonder of the season into the year ahead, joining with Simeon and Anna in the recognition of the whole story of God's redeeming love.