



Advent – Christmas 2021

Joy to the world!

*We are wonders, blessed wonders,
singing joy to the world.*

“Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets”

#276 Voices Together

The theme for Advent - Christmas - Epiphany worship is **Dare to imagine**. As we begin a new church year, let's dare to imagine our path forward with God, toward God's dream for our world. The scripture lessons for the Advent season and our 2021 context make us long for renewed imagination in our lives, congregation, and community. This worship series dares all of us to speak aloud our hopes for coming days.

Weekly sub-themes include: Dare to imagine – God's goodness, God's embrace, God's song, God's face, God's robe, and God's dance. This year's Advent theme lends itself well to our being led in worship by children's imaginations. The children's story invites children's active participation as we dare to imagine. Enjoy following the children's lead, as we dare to imagine!

November 28 – ADVENT 1 Dare to imagine God's goodness!

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; I Thessalonians 3:9-13;
Luke 21:25-36 Can we, dare we, embrace *hope* once more?
Advent themed children's Sunday School via zoom.

December 5 – ADVENT 2 Dare to imagine God's embrace!

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
Imagine the wideness of God's embrace of *peace* for all creatures and creation!

December 12 – ADVENT 3 Dare to imagine God's song!

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
Singing together brings great *joy*, but even more, our hearts swell as we imagine God singing over us.
Advent themed children's Sunday School via zoom.

December 19 – ADVENT 4 Dare to imagine God's face!

Micah 5:2-5; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55
What amazing *love* is that God comes down to us, and takes a human face?

December 21 – The Longest Night

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Psalm 22

Our hearts ache with grief, loss, pandemic pain, mental health challenges, climate change, uncertainty to our days.
Sustaining God, we trust that the light will rise above the horizon as the night yields to the light of day, and our mourning gradually will find its way to gratitude and joy.

December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 98; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20

Imagine joy to world, all the earth joining in praise of God!
Worship online. In-person worship details to follow.

December 26 – Dare to imagine God's robe!

I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17;
Luke 2:41-52

Robes dominate this week's images, clothing ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, love, and peace.

January 2 – Dare to imagine God's dance!

Epiphany – January 6

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:18
Imagine a dance that includes all peoples and nations coming together, praising God.

