

Advent Season

Believers and churches all over the world celebrate Advent from December 3rd to December 24th. The word “advent” means arrival or coming of a person, thing, or event. In Christianity it refers to Jesus’ First Coming as a baby in Bethlehem, as well as His Second Coming for His Bride.



Five candles are lit for Advent, three blue or purple, one pink, and one white. Each one represents something different, and serve as a reminder that Jesus came as Light into our dark world.

1. Candle of Hope (Isaiah 7:14). The first candle symbolizes hope and is also referred to as the “Prophet’s Candle.” The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah’s arrival. Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. Our hope is only found in Jesus Christ, who offers undeserved forgiveness for our sins.

2. Candle of Love (Luke 2:12). The second candle represents love and is called “Bethlehem’s Candle.” Micah foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David as an expression of God the Father’s love for all peoples.

3. Candle of Joy (Luke 2:8-12). The third candle symbolizes joy, also called the “Shepherd’s Candle.” The angels announced to the shepherds in the field, “*good news of great joy to all people.*” This candle is pink because, in Christian history, the color rose signifies joy.

4. Candle of Peace (Luke 2:8-11, Angel’s Candle). The fourth candle represents peace. The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace with God as well as with each other.

5. Candle of Light & Purity (Christ Candle). The fifth candle is white and it represents Christ coming into the world with light and purity. It is placed in the middle as a reminder of the preeminence and centrality of Christ. This candle is usually lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

May these Advent Candles help you visually center Christmas on our beloved Christ, the ultimate source of our hope, love, joy, and peace.

Welcome to Journey!

EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Young Adults enjoying Friendsgiving after serving at Operation Christmas Child



A joyful member of EFCA • efca.org
14614 Magnolia Street, Westminster, CA 92683
(714) 893-5500 • JourneyEC.org

Order of Service

December 3rd, 2023

Welcome & Call To Worship.....Devin

Worship.....Kyle & Congregation

Sermon..... **Our Unwavering Hope**..... Ted

Song of ResponseTed & Congregation

BenedictionTed

Sermon Outline

Ted Kau • Isaiah 9:1–7

Central truth: *Christmas is all about the undeserved light of Christ piercing through the darkness which can only be humbly received by grace alone.*

How can we be certain that our hope is unwavering?

1. Christ is an unexpected, _____ surprise, Isaiah 9:1
2. Know that apart from Christ, we lived in _____, 9:2
3. Our hope is in this unwavering _____, 9:6
4. Receive the gift of Christ with _____, 9:6

My application:

Ways to get involved:

- 12/8: Youth Ministry:** we are preparing a special Christmas Reader's Theater for 12/24.
- 12/10: Congregational Meeting, Elections:** Please join for important updates! Voting will be done in-person only, no online voting.
- 12/15: Youth Ministry Gift Exchange:** more info to come.
- 12/16: SERVE Gift Cards:** SERVE Ministry is requesting \$20 grocery store gift card donations for a Christmas raffle. If you would like to give, please place gift cards in the offering box along the rear Sanctuary wall.
- 12/17: Baptism & Membership:** Diana Wong and Cayden Yee will profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior via baptism, and Jeffrey Xing will join Journey membership, praise God!
- 12/22: Young Adult Gift Exchange:** at the Kau home.
- 12/24: Christmas Worship Service (10:30):** invite friends, family, and neighbors to this time of celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deacons

Allie Wong
Anne Chou
Dave McLendon
Joshua Cain
Pat Leung
Paulah Wong
Teresa Jue
Wesley Lin

Elders

Cliff Char—Young Adults, Worship Music
Devin Wong—GO Team, Website
Hiro Kono—Cong. Dev., Pastoral Care, Women's Ministry
Peter Leung—Children, Welcome
Phil Jen Kin—Facilities, Cantonese, Security, Personnel
Rick Chou—Nominations, Multimedia, Small Groups
Ron Jue—Growth & Legacy, Deacons Liaison, CLT Chair
Victor Wong—Campus, Finance, Hospitality, SERVE, Vietnamese

Staff

Ted Kau—Senior Pastor
Paul Eng—Chinese Pastor
Ewin Grace—Connections Pastor
Phil Yoder—Youth Pastor
Peter Leung—Children's Director
Linzey Sun—Youth Intern
Sammie Sun—Youth Intern
Roger Yee—Business Administrator
Amy Mu—Office & Ministry Assistant