

Advent@Home

There is no doubt that this has been an unusual year. And while I am disappointed that we will be unable to do our normal Advent and Christmas activities, I love creative problem-solving! I hope you will enjoy this Advent@Home kit as much as I enjoyed planning, designing, and creating it.

Advent is the beginning of the Christian year and the time that we spend waiting to celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Day. We are also anticipating the second coming of Jesus. Amid the hustle and bustle of the holidays, we, as Christians, are encouraged to slow down, quiet our hearts and minds, and recall the events leading up to our savior's birth in the manger.

This box contains different activities for you and your family to be a part of the Christmas story. Inside you will find:

- **Advent calendar** of 24 cards to hang as a garland. These numbered cards contain scripture recalling a part of the journey to the manger. Cut them out and hang from twine with clothespins.
- **Cookie Project** including a cookie cutter to make and decorate cookies. Select several to put in a treat bag with the included scripture hang tags and deliver them to family, friends, and neighbors.
- **Caroling Activity** with song sheets featuring Christian Christmas carols. While there are many Christmas songs, the ones included are focused on the birth of Jesus rather than more secular versions. Decorate the bookmarks and distribute them to neighbors as your family carols around your neighborhood.
- **Nativity Sticker Set** to use as you learn the Christmas story through these various activities.
- **Christmas Pageant @Home Script** is a shortened version of what is used each Christmas Eve at St. Philip's Children's Christmas Pageant. Recruit members of your family to participate by playing roles. Simple costumes made from bathrobes, nightgowns, and towels can add an extra element. Pick readers for the scripture, and singing can feature solos or group singing. Get creative! There is an opportunity for everyone to be a part of the Christmas story.

I hope you enjoy these activities, and I am eager to learn what your family has done. Be sure to post photos of your family on social media as you do these activities. Tag "St. Philip's Church" and designate them #stpaventathome2020.

I am looking forward to being with you in person in 2021!

Amy Watson Smith
Director of Ministry to Children + Families

