

The Advent Wreath

A Liturgy for Lighting the Second Candle: Faith

DaySpring Baptist Church

*Greeting (Recite Howard Thurman’s poem together or each person take a turn reading a line.)*

**I Will Light Candles This Christmas**

**Candles of joy, despite all sadness,**

**Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.**

**Candles of courage for fears ever present,**

**Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,**

**Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,**

**Candles of love to inspire all my living,**

**Candles that burn all the year long.**

*Scripture*

**Prophets listen to God and proclaim the way to God. Listen to the words of John the Baptist:**

*The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

*As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,*

*"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;*

*the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:*

*'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"*

*John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*

*Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist,*

*and he ate locusts and wild honey.*

*He proclaimed,*

*"The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Mark 1:1-8*

*Lighting the First and Second Purple Candles – Hope and Faith*

**God of hope who is ever faithful, we light these candles, one for hope and one for faith, as we prepare for the coming of your Son. May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith. Amen.**

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Family storytelling is a wonderful way for children to find themselves in the story of God. Below are dinnertime conversation prompts that intersect with the Godly Play stories the 3-year-olds through 4th graders are hearing and the adult formation class:

1. How do prophets listen to God so that they could point the way to Bethlehem? How do we listen to one another?
2. Who has been a prophet in our family or in our church who points the way to racial reconciliation?
3. Mary and Joseph made a long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. What long journeys have we taken as a family and how did we prepare? When has anyone in our family been brave on a journey?
4. How do our conversations at DaySpring about race intersect with our family’s journey?
5. Whom do we know of a different race from us and what family traditions have we learned from them?

[Benefits of Family Story Telling](https://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/17/fashion/the-family-stories-that-bind-us-this-life.html)