



## CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

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### CHRISTMAS EVE

This Christmas Eve, as you finish up all the last minute things on your lists, wrap up your church's Christmas Eve service, or enjoy time with family, take a moment to read the following scripture passage together. Spend some time reflecting on how Jesus entered the world.

### SCRIPTURE

Read Luke 2:1-7

*"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."*

### CHRISTMAS DAY

### SCRIPTURE

Read Luke 2:20

### REFLECTION

Merry Christmas! Joy to the world! The Lord has come!

The universe is vast, our world is ginormous, and there are plenty of problems to keep us busy. However, on Christmas, we stop and think about the birth of Jesus. We focus our vision on something small, something powerfully tiny, in a small place, in a distant time. This newborn baby has our full attention.

When we focus on the birth of Jesus, the rest of the world grows dimmer. The volume of the distractions around us decreases. We smell the warm head of the baby and the oil of frankincense. We see the glow of light around his mother as she holds him. We touch the worn hands of the shepherds as they pray and thank God. We imagine ourselves in this cozy place, full of love, joy, peace, and hope. Is there any better place to be? Why can't the rest of our lives feel like Christmas?

The lesson of Christmas is that we can live out love, joy, peace, and hope every day. When the problems of our lives grow too big in our minds, when we are overwhelmed with fears or worries, or when we forget the good news of great joy that has come to all humankind, we can stop and reflect again. Because the Good News is Emmanuel, God with us, we can find ourselves beside Jesus, basking in God's goodness, on any day and at any time.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

As you color the coloring page, ponder these questions:

- What else do you see, hear, touch, smell, and taste on Christmas morning? When you close your eyes and imagine yourself with Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, how do you feel?
- How is this day different for your family? What are the important sights, smells, tastes, sounds, and feelings of the day?
- If we stop thinking about all of the worries and stressors for a day, what happens to our minds, bodies, and spirits?

## ACTIVITY

### Materials:

- This week's Activity Pages
- Empty toilet paper roll
- Blank 8.5x11 paper
- Glue or tape
- Scissors
- Tape
- Art supplies (markers, crayons, paint, glitter, etc.)

When you walk outside and look at the stars, can you count them all? Can you pick your favorite star? When we are looking at the whole night sky, it is difficult to see just one star. When you want to see one beautiful, flickering star, you can pull out a telescope to zoom in. The same is true in our lives. When our problems grow big in our minds, and we are overwhelmed with fears and worries, it is hard to see the good news of God's great joy.

That is why it is important to focus on the words of our faith like hope, peace, joy, and love to remind us the good news of Jesus is always with us.

Let's make a poster and telescopes to remind us to shift our focus onto these words of our faith on the days when our fears seem extra loud. Fold your blank paper in half lengthwise, like a hotdog. Cut your paper on the fold line and decorate your telescope paper as creatively as you like. This paper will be the outside of your telescope. Let your telescope decorations dry completely before moving onto the next step. Once dry, turn your telescope paper upside down and put glue on the undecorated side of the paper. Then wrap your telescope paper around the toilet paper roll and allow it to dry.

As you wait for the glue to dry, make the poster using the instructions included with the Activity Pages and fill the poster with words that remind you that the good news of great joy is for you, your family, your friends, and the whole world. Color in the rest of the poster and hang it somewhere visible in your home. When you feel overwhelmed with worry or fear, grab your telescope and use it to focus on one of these words at a time and receive the message they have for you. As we move into a brand new year, you can use your telescope to look at your poster to remind you that the good news of the greatest joy is all around you and inside you. Make your poster using the instructions included with the activity page.

## PRAYER

Dear God,

We trust you are with us in this new year and always.

When fears grow in us and around us,

help us to remember we can hold hope,

bring peace,

practice joy,

and choose love.

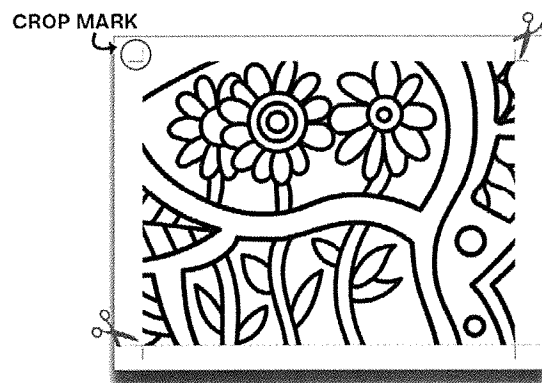
**Amen.**

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR POSTER

Follow the directions below, and have fun creating and coloring your poster!

### Printing:

When you print, select either "Scale" and set at 96% or "Scale to Fit (Print Entire Image)." Each page contains "crop marks" that guide you as you cut margins off around the image. You can get an idea of how they work by looking at the sample image below:



### A4 Mosaic Poster Tiles:

Download Mosaic Poster Tiles formatted for A4 paper here: <http://illustrtdm.in/Advent2020A4>

### Assembly:

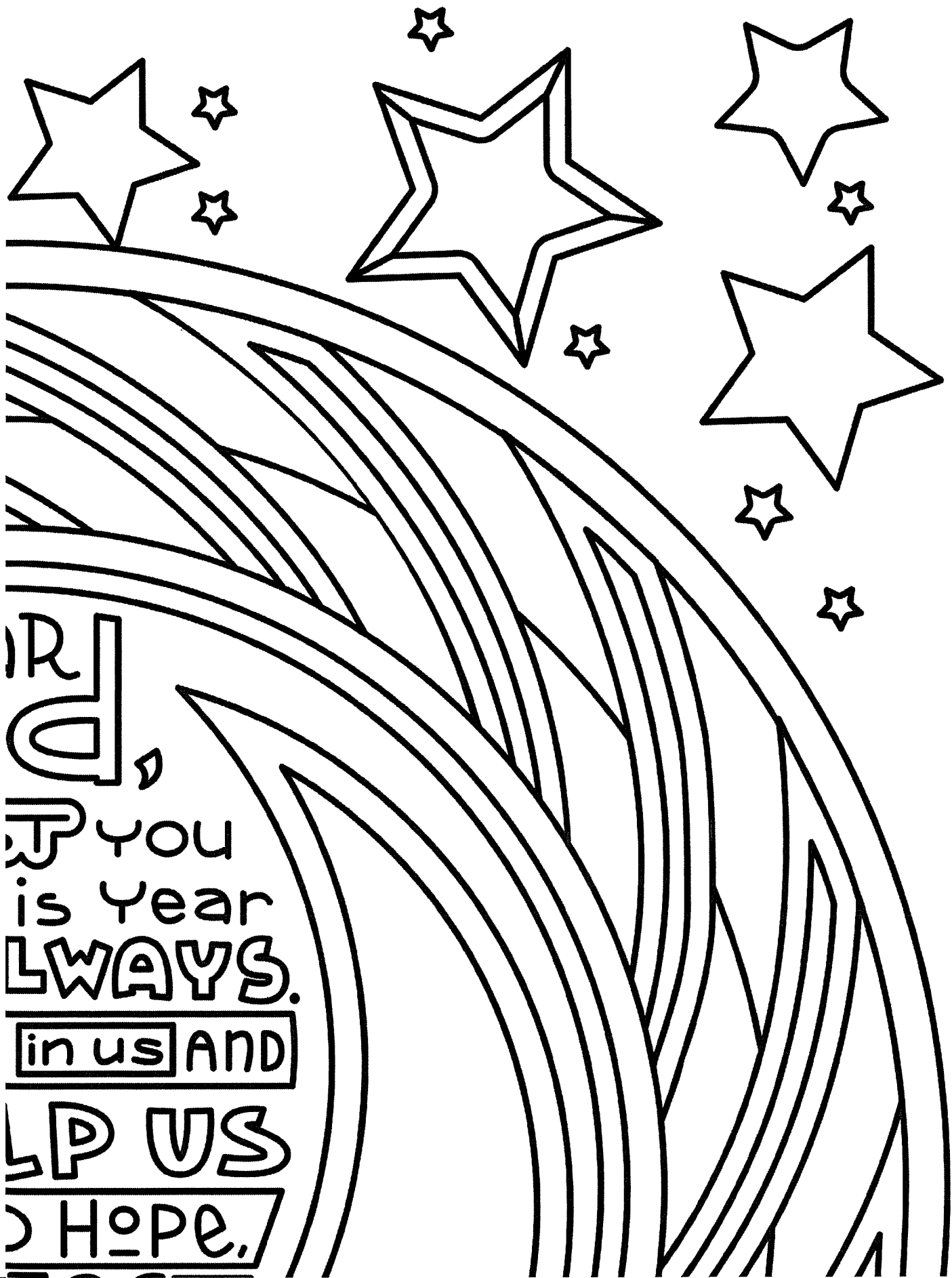
**Cut:** When it's time to assemble, use the crop marks to guide you through cutting off the margins. Please be careful not to cut into the image. This format is designed to meet together when placed side by side, and there is no overlap of images on the paper.

**Arrange:** Piece together the poster by arranging the images on a table or floor, as you would a puzzle. Keep in mind you are creating a beautiful, collaborative piece of communal art, not a gallery-ready fine art print (so don't be discouraged if it doesn't line up 100%).

**Tape:** We recommend focusing on one page at a time as you begin to tape the pieces together. When two pages match and line up to your satisfaction, tape them together. Match the next page, line it up to your satisfaction, and tape them together. Continue until you complete taping all the pages together and make a complete poster.



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in us AND  
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HOPE.

WE CAN bring

PRACTICE CHOOS

JOY, AND LOVE



FACE

U.S.  
AMER





