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Worship Planning Workbook

First Sunday of Advent through Epiphany

provided by

the Miller Summer Youth Institute and Chapel Team

at

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

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What is this resource?

What you're looking at, whether on paper or on a screen, is a workbook intended to help you plan and prepare for leading worship. Based on feedback from the Seminary's Ordinary Time workbook, the PTS Chapel team and the Miller Summer Youth Institute have worked together to update this workbook to include many new liturgical aids.

For each Sunday from during Advent through Epiphany, you'll find:

On the **Planning Page**:

- Scripture readings based on the pertinent Revised Common Lectionary Passages;
- Possible themes;
- Some thoughts on the passages intended to serve as a conversation partner as you read;
- Reflections on the daily passages;
- Suggested hymns;
- A Prayer for the Day;
- The designation of the day (such as "First Sunday in Advent" or "Christmas Day");
- Planning space; and
- The liturgical color of the day and an alternative color.

If you tend to like working on paper, feel free to print a hard copy of this workbook for your use. If you only have a paper copy and would prefer a digital copy, visit www.pts.edu/Advent16.

If you have thoughts, suggestions, or comments about how this resource could be even more helpful, e-mail us at SYI@pts.edu.

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November 27, 2016 - Year A First Sunday of Advent		
Scripture	Possible Themes	Scripture Resources
Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sense of urgency: Be ready day by day - Call to Repentance - Participation in God’s Kingdom now: praying for peace, walking in the light, working for reconciliation - New beginnings as we start a new church year and prepare for a new calendar year 	Isaiah 2:1-5 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A call to walk in the light of the Lord - A vision of the world under God’s reign – the new creation that is inaugurated at Christ’s birth and culminates at His second coming. This is the reality toward which God is already drawing all creation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Wisdom and instruction will come out of the house of the Lord o All nations will convert their weapons of war into implements for sustaining life. Matthew 24:36-44 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A call to keep watch and always be ready: the coming of the Son of Man (the culmination of all things, the day of judgment) will be a surprise. This is a call to be ready at all times so that we are not caught unaware.
Sermon Title		
To Do		
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November 27, 2016 - Year A First Sunday of Advent	
Hymn Suggestions	Prayer
<p>Songs and refrains to use throughout Advent:</p> <p><i>Wait for the Lord</i> <i>Come, Come Emmanuel</i> <i>Prepare the Way of the Lord</i> (This short melody from the Taize community can be sung as a refrain throughout Advent as we call our congregations to seek and respond to the ways we prepare for our coming Lord throughout daily life)</p> <p><i>For the Troubles and the Sufferings</i> (Works very nicely as part of the Prayers for the People)</p> <p>Songs and refrains to use for the First Sunday of Advent:</p> <p><i>Come Now, O Prince of Peace</i> (Korean prayer for peace and unity)</p> <p><i>O Day of Peace</i> <i>O Lord, How Shall I Meet You</i> <i>My Lord! What a Morning</i> (This Spiritual looks with hope to the dawning of the new day)</p> <p><i>I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light</i> <i>Come! Live in the Light (We Are Called)</i></p>	<p>Prayer for the Day:</p> <p>“Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through Him who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, now and forever. Amen.”</p> <p>An Order of Worship for the Reformed Church 1884</p>

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December 4, 2016 - Year A Second Sunday of Advent		
Scripture	Possible Themes	Scripture Resources
Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Righteousness and Justice as the fruit of lives well lived <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Isaiah, a righteous branch emerges from the stump of Jesse; - In the Psalm, a just king is blessed. In Romans, Christians express righteousness through hospitality.	Isaiah 11:1-10 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A vision of the world under God’s reign that expands that offered in Advent 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A righteous ruler coming out of the stump of Jesse—We hope in this promised ruler who will lead all creation to live in peace. o All nations will turn to the Lord. o The Peaceable Kingdom Matthew 3:1-12 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A call to repentance - A call to new relationship—The coming king of righteousness and justice inaugurates a new way of relating to the world. - A call to bear fruit - John the Baptist proclaims repentance and offers baptism as preparation for the coming kingdom of God. - The righteousness and justice of the coming king
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December 4, 2016 - Year A Second Sunday of Advent	
Hymn Suggestions	Prayer
<p>Songs and refrains to use throughout Advent:</p> <p><i>Wait for the Lord</i> <i>Come, Come Emmanuel</i> <i>Prepare the Way of the Lord</i> (This short melody from the Taize community can be sung as a refrain throughout Advent as we call our congregations to seek and respond to the ways we prepare for our coming Lord throughout daily life.) <i>For the Troubles and the Sufferings</i> (Works very nicely as part of the Prayers for the People)</p> <p>Songs and refrains to use for the Second Sunday of Advent:</p> <p><i>Prepare the Way, O Zion</i> <i>Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old</i> <i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i> <i>On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry</i> <i>Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice</i> <i>We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom</i></p>	<p>Prayer for the Day:</p> <p>"Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord." Amen.</p> <p>The Eastern liturgy of the Holy, Catholic Apostolic and Orthodox Church: Simplified and Adapted for Use in the West 1866, p. 29</p>

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December 11, 2016 - Year A Third Sunday of Advent			
Scripture	Possible Themes	Scripture Resources	
Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expecting reversal: the ways of this world are overturned in God’s Kingdom - Waiting patiently for the fullness of God’s Kingdom – hope and trust - A call to participate in the Kingdom: We not only expect and wait patiently, but we also participate in this new order here and now. 	Isaiah 35:1-10 – A song of hope to the exiles in Babylon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The joy of all creation – re-creation - The highway of the Lord for the redeemed, hope for the oppressed 	
Sermon Title		Psalm 146:5-10 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A psalm of praise: trust and hope in God - Almighty God, Maker of heaven and earth, is the one who tends to the needs of the powerless: the oppressed, the hungry, the prisoners, the blind, those who are bowed down, the alien, the orphan, and the widow. 	
To Do		Matthew 11:2-11 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John the Baptist: “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” - Good News, healing, and resurrection 	
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December 11, 2016 - Year A Third Sunday of Advent	
Hymn Suggestions	Prayer
<p>Songs and refrains to use throughout Advent:</p> <p><i>Wait for the Lord</i> <i>Come, Come Emmanuel</i> <i>Prepare the Way of the Lord</i></p> <p>(This short melody from the Taize community can be sung as a refrain throughout Advent as we call our congregations to seek and respond to the ways we prepare for our coming Lord throughout daily life.)</p> <p><i>For the Troubles and the Sufferings</i> (Works very nicely as part of the Prayers for the People)</p> <p>Songs and refrains to use for the Third Sunday of Advent:</p> <p><i>Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn</i> <i>My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout</i> <i>While We Are Waiting, Come</i> <i>Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night</i> <i>Be Still, My Soul</i> <i>Once in Royal David's City</i> <i>"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us</i> <i>Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates</i></p>	<p>Prayer for the Day:</p> <p>"Lord, we beseech Thee, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts, by Thy gracious visitation: Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen."</p> <p>The Book of Worship: For the Use of the United Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the South 1888, p. 28</p>

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December 18, 2016 - Year A Fourth Sunday of Advent		
Scripture	Possible Themes	Scripture Resources
Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have all experienced some form of brokenness or disappointment in the world around us. We can certainly lament with the Psalmist. Yet we find assurance that it is into this very world that God has entered—the God who is about righteous and justice, the God who is overturning the ways of the world. - A call to obedience 	Isaiah 7:10-16 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prophecy in a time of national crisis: God will resolve the struggle. - A sign: A virgin birth will demonstrate that God is with us. Romans 1:1-7 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul’s introduction of his ministry to the house churches in Rome - Through his obedience, Paul calls others to “the obedience that comes from faith.” - As those “who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,” we seek in Advent to discover what that calling, that newness of life, means. Matthew 1:18-25 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matthew’s account of the birth of Jesus - The trust and faithfulness of Joseph; Joseph’s obedience
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December 18, 2016 - Year A Fourth Sunday of Advent	
Hymn Suggestions	Prayer
<p>Songs and refrains to use throughout Advent:</p> <p><i>Wait for the Lord</i> <i>Come, Come Emmanuel</i> <i>Prepare the Way of the Lord</i> (This short melody from the Taize community can be sung as a refrain throughout Advent as we call our congregations to seek and respond to the ways we prepare for our coming Lord throughout daily life.) <i>For the Troubles and the Sufferings</i> (Works very nicely as part of the Prayers for the People)</p> <p>Songs and refrains to use for the Fourth Sunday of Advent:</p> <p><i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i> <i>Love Has Come</i> <i>O Hear Our Cry, O Lord (Psalm 80)</i> <i>Restore in Us, O God</i> <i>Lead Me, Guide Me</i> <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i> <i>What Child Is This</i> <i>Gentle Mary Laid Her Child</i> <i>There in God's Garden</i> <i>The Right Hand of God</i> <i>You Are Holy/Prince of Peace</i></p>	<p>Prayer for the Day:</p> <p>“Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, this grace unto Thy people, to wait with all vigilance for the Coming of Thine Only-begotten Son; that as He, the Author of our salvation, taught us, we may prepare our souls like blazing lamps to meet Him, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.” Amen.</p> <p>Ancient Collects and other Prayers 1875</p>

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December 25, 2016 - Year A Christmas Day		
Scripture	Possible Themes	Scripture Resources
Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20 Psalm 96	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The readings throughout Advent have prepared us to know “God with us” through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The nature of the end toward which God draws us (the eschatological promise); o The nature of God – righteous and just – and the righteousness and justice that God calls for in us; o The nature of God’s Kingdom, which reverses worldly structures and expectations. - Today’s reading’s draw on all the above preparation for Christ’s birth as a way of sending us out to bear witness to “God with us.” Rather than leaving us at the manger, these readings point to the impact and the meaning of the nativity for our lives. 	Titus 2:11-14 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Jesus Christ, God’s grace has appeared. We are now free from the power of sin and free to “do what is good.” - Jesus’ birth is situated as the beginning of ongoing transformation – in Christ’s work of redemption and the Spirit’s work of sanctification, creation is headed toward “the glorious appearing,” Christ’s final coming in glory, the fullness of God’s Kingdom. Luke 2:1-20 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caesar’s census and the going of Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem to register - Luke’s account of Jesus’ birth - The angels’ appearance to the shepherds and their visit to Jesus in Bethlehem Psalm 96 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A psalm of praise: God’s glorious reign - Themes of victory or inauguration/enthronement
Sermon Title		
To Do		
Color: White Non-Liturgical Color: This is the day to wear the red-and-green-striped socks.		

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December 25, 2016 - Year A Christmas Day	
Hymn Suggestions	Prayer
<p>Songs and refrains to use for Christmas Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks</i><i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i><i>Where Shepherds Lately Knelt</i><i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i><i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</i><i>Blest Be the God of Israel</i><i>From Heaven Above</i><i>Before the Marvel of This Night</i><i>Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child</i>	<p>Prayer for the Day:</p> <p>“Loving God, we thank Thee for the rich gift of Thy dear son, and that through his love and goodness, we have seen Thy love and goodness. We thank Thee for the sweet faith that enables us to behold in you the good shepherd, the true light, the way, the truth, the resurrection and the life, the redeemer and the savior of the world! May we cherish your loving spirit, be obedient to your holy commands, rejoice in your divine promises and finally everywhere may there be glory to Thee in the highest, peace on earth and good will to all. Amen.”</p> <p>Adapted From <i>Manna: A Book of Daily Worship</i> 1892, p. 380</p>

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January 1, 2017 - Year A First Sunday after Christmas (and New Year's Day)		
Scripture	Possible Themes	Scripture Resources
Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23	- Today's readings take us from the peaceful image of the Christ child lying in a manger to some of the messier aspects of the Incarnation. With Isaiah and the Psalmist, we celebrate salvation and deliverance, but we also acknowledge the nature of the world that was in need of deliverance.	Isaiah 63:7-9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Praise for God's mercy and steadfast love toward Israel - Thanksgiving for salvation and redemption, deliverance from exile Psalm 148 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A psalm of praise: All creation praises the Lord – both the chorus of heaven and the chorus of earth. Matthew 2:13-23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mary, Joseph, and Jesus flee to Egypt, then to Nazareth after Herod's death. - Herod's anger leads to the massacre of the innocents. - Matthew quotes Jeremiah 31:15.
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January 1, 2017 - Year A First Sunday after Christmas (and New Year's Day)	
Hymn Suggestions	Prayer
<p>Songs and refrains to use for the First Sunday after Christmas (and New Year's Day):</p> <p><i>God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us</i> <i>Sing Praise to God, You Heavens! (Psalm 148)</i> <i>Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator (Psalm 148)</i> <i>Earth and All Stars!</i> <i>You Shall Go Out with Joy</i> <i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i> <i>Let All the World in Every Corner Sing</i> <i>Let's Sing unto the Lord/Cantemos al Señor</i> <i>Let the Whole Creation Cry</i> <i>Holy God, We Praise Your Name</i> <i>Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus</i> <i>At the Name of Jesus</i> <i>I Need Thee Every Hour</i> <i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i> <i>In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy</i> <i>Jesus Entered Egypt</i></p>	<p>Prayer for the Day:</p> <p>Lord of all,</p> <p>As we prepare for this new year, we ask your guidance and presence. We do not know what you will do in and amongst and with us this year, but we pray that you would make us attentive to your movement in our lives as individuals and as a people.</p> <p>Help us to be faithful and loving, to proclaim and enact your love to all those you place in our lives this year.</p> <p>Thank you for another year to enjoy you and your creation.</p> <p>Amen.</p>

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January 6, 2017 - Year A Epiphany		
Scripture	Possible Themes	Scripture Resources
Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seeing God at work in our midst - Finding God’s presence in unexpected places - God’s love for all creation 	Isaiah 60:1-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The glory of the Lord rises – for all creation, a call to praise Psalm 72:1-14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A psalm of praise and of intercession for the righteous king - Righteousness and justice of the king to whom all will bow - Deliverance, blessing of all nations Ephesians 3:1-12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mystery of Christ revealed by the Holy Spirit - Unity in the body and promise of Christ - The wisdom of God should be made known through the Church. Matthew 2:1-12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The visit of the Magi
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Hymn Suggestions	Prayer
<p>Songs and refrains to use for Epiphany:</p> <p><i>Make Your Face to Shine</i></p> <p><i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/Jesus, the Light of the World</i></p> <p><i>We Three Kings of Orient Are</i></p> <p><i>The People Who Walked in Darkness</i></p> <p><i>Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light</i></p> <p><i>Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun</i></p> <p><i>Arise, Your Light Is Come!</i></p> <p><i>Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining/Shine, Jesus, Shine</i></p> <p><i>We Are Marching in the Light of God/Siyahamba</i></p> <p><i>All Hail to God's Anointed (Psalm 72)</i></p> <p><i>Blessed Jesus, at Your Word</i></p> <p><i>Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies</i></p> <p><i>O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright</i></p> <p><i>In the Heavens Shone a Star</i></p> <p><i>There's a Star in the East</i></p> <p><i>On This Day Earth Shall Ring</i></p> <p><i>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i></p> <p><i>As with Gladness Men of Old</i></p> <p><i>What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright</i></p>	<p>Prayer for the Day:</p> <p>God of grace,</p> <p>We praise you and thank you for all the ways you act in our lives. We ask you to open our eyes to your presence and your love. Show us the ways that you bless us each day. We also ask you to open our eyes to our neighbors. Help us to see the depth of your love for those we encounter each day.</p> <p>Amen.</p>