

Advent & Christmastide at CCA

“Advent at the End of the World...as we know it”

Let's face it: These past few years have been a doozy. And while we're being frank, so has the 21st century, ushering in a rate of change that has outpaced even the rapid advancement and upheaval of the 20th. And while we're being honest, the rate of change in our own congregation these past two years has been jarring in its own way. What's more: Life marches on, through births, deaths, weddings, graduations, retirements and all the personal milestones and transitions in between. It is a lot to process and hold. In many ways, our world and our (individual) worlds will never be the same. This Advent, we want to hold space for all the opportunity, anxiety, and grief that monumental change can bring, and we want to ask with sincerity: How can the virtues of Advent—hope, peace, joy, and love—instill in us the spiritual fortitude to thrive, not just survive, at the end of the world as we know it. I hope you'll make plans to join us for one or many of these gatherings! Pastor Amelia

Sunday Morning Worship Gatherings (with virtual and onsite participation):

11/27 Forging Hope From Despair; Isaiah 2:1-5 and Matthew 24:36-44*

12/4 Making Peace Out of Chaos; Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12

12/11 Feeling Joy As Resistance; Britt Hicks preaching

12/18 Choosing Love Over Hate (or resentment or resignation); Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25

12/25 Christmas Day; No Sunday Services

Hymn & Carol Sing ~ Following Joys & Concerns on **11/27**, [Laura Martin](#) will lead us in another hymn sing to help us get into the holiday spirit!

Spiritual Formation Opportunities:

Kids' Sunday School ~ every Sunday at 10:00am, including music time with Laura and Godly Play with Kay; children's lessons will also focus on the stories and themes of Advent.

Intergenerational Forum ~ a new Sunday morning opportunity for all, from high schoolers on up to our most mature members and friends. On **12/4 and 12/11**, Dr. Nathan Leach (CCA member and newly-minted PhD in the UT Department of Religion) will lead us through an exploration of the book of Revelation. Spoiler Alert: It's probably not what you think. Class will meet at 10:00am in the gathering space outside the church offices.

Candlelight Service, Sunday, December 18 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary (virtual and onsite) ~

A service of lessons, carols, and ushering in the Light of Christ, followed with refreshments!

Services to begin 2023 (virtual and onsite):

1/1 at 11:00am, **New Year's Worship** ~ This will be a relaxed gathering with music, readings, meditation, and a chance to set intentions for the year to come. Come as you are, even in your jammies.

1/8 at 11:00am, **Epiphany Sunday** ~ We will return to our usual Sunday morning worship routines, while journeying with the Wise Ones to seek the Christ Child.