



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

November 30, 2014

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (7)

I Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37



The Waiting Place. *Object:* "Oh, the Place You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss
I have heard that if you live to be seventy years old, you will spend three years of your life just waiting. Waiting in line at the grocery store, waiting in the doctor's office, waiting for lunch to be ready, waiting for recess time at school.

In his book, "Oh, the Places You'll Go," Dr. Seuss talks about a place called "the waiting place." He describes it as a useless place where people are just waiting.

Waiting for a train to go, or a bus to come, or a plane to go, or the mail to come, or the rain to go, or the phone to ring, or the snow to snow or waiting around for a Yes or No or waiting for their hair to grow. Everyone is just waiting.

I don't particularly like waiting, do you? I don't like it, but I don't know of any way to avoid it. We all have to spend some time in this "waiting place" that Dr. Seuss talks about, but I don't think it has to be a useless place. While we are waiting, life goes on, and we must make good use of our time. What can we do? Well, we could read a good book or call a friend on the cell phone. We could make a list of things we need to do today or, we could even study for our weekly spelling test. Well, maybe that's going a bit too far, but there are many things we can do besides just waiting.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent means "to come." Do you know what's coming? Of course, Christmas is coming. This is an exciting time, but it may also be a difficult time of waiting -- especially for children. Waiting for the day when you can open the gifts that you see under the tree. What can we do to make this time of waiting for Christmas more than just a useless time in the waiting place? Well, we can think about the true meaning of Christmas. We can think about Jesus and his love. We can think about giving instead of receiving. We can enjoy all of beautiful music and the decorations of the season. When we do those things, we will find joy in the waiting place.

We are waiting for Christmas, but we are also waiting for something else. We are waiting for Jesus' return. He told us that he would come again and he told us to watch and be ready for him. What should we do while we are waiting? We should worship and praise him, love and serve him, and share his love with others. When we are doing those things, we will be ready for his return, and we will find joy in the waiting place.

Heavenly Father, as we spend time in this waiting place, we look forward with great joy to the celebration of Jesus' birth and to the day when he comes again. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia (Psalm 85:7)

Word Search Puzzle

V	B	H	D	H	P	R	E	G	W	S	W	H	O	L
F	O	W	O	W	E	M	F	C	H	A	R	G	E	U
N	L	F	O	T	I	H	X	W	M	I	X	M	I	S
N	H	N	S	T	O	N	O	Z	I	A	C	O	M	E
R	K	O	Q	A	V	M	W	J	D	N	H	W	J	C
T	O	M	U	H	L	Y	N	J	N	G	E	A	K	T
R	D	G	Y	R	O	I	E	J	I	E	A	T	L	R
S	W	A	G	G	N	U	R	R	G	L	V	C	R	G
B	C	Q	W	U	X	M	S	J	H	S	E	H	N	X
U	D	R	A	N	A	K	X	E	T	P	N	I	F	D
B	G	A	O	F	M	R	Z	Y	F	S	P	C	J	V
F	P	A	Y	W	N	K	D	E	V	E	N	I	N	G
P	T	O	X	K	S	O	S	C	E	H	T	W	T	I
A	L	E	R	T	E	F	X	L	M	Y	J	G	C	C
S	E	R	V	A	N	T	S	Z	M	N	U	K	Z	X

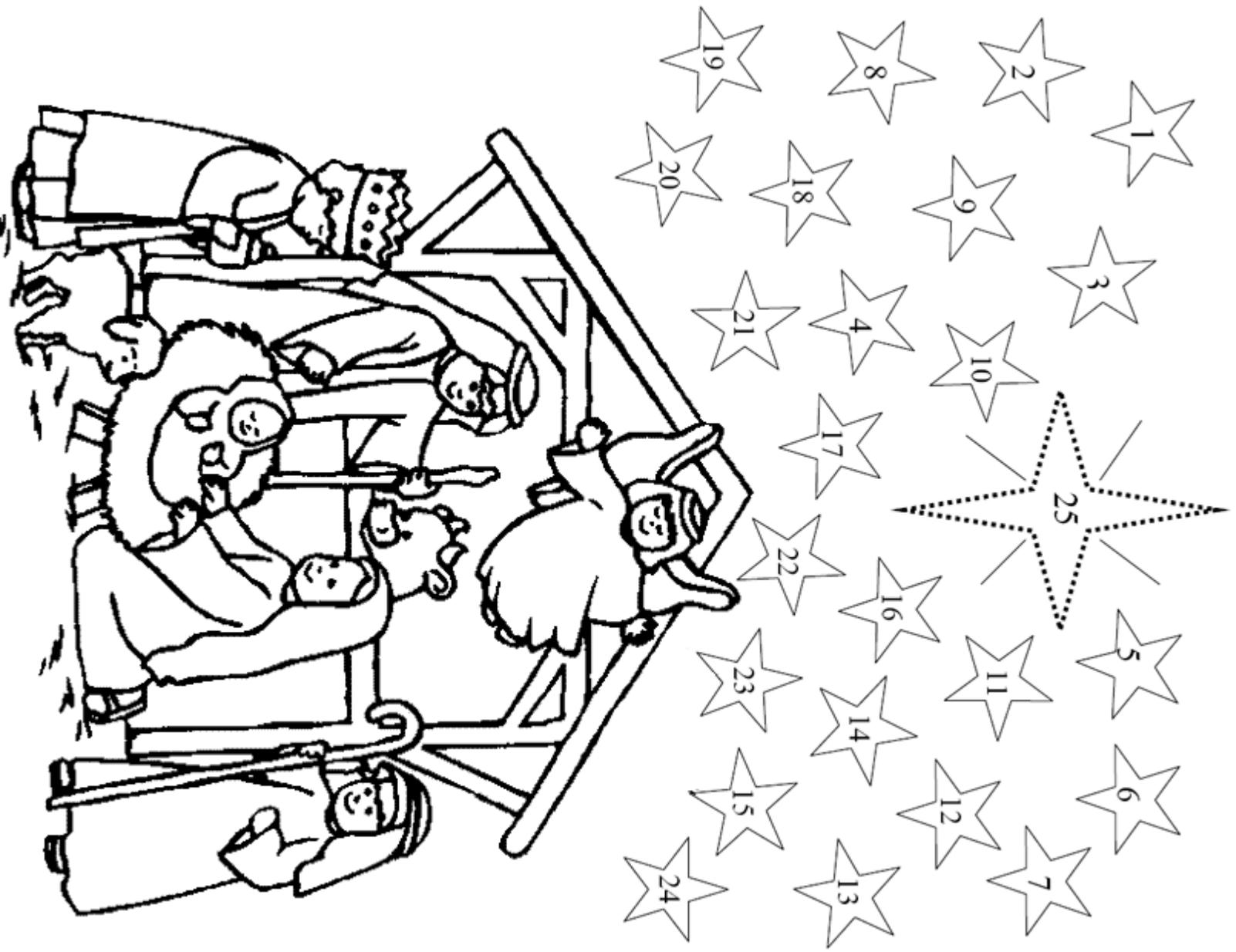
COME	CHARGE	MIDNIGHT	TIME	SERVANTS
ROOSTER	DAY	SLEEPING	HOUSE	DAWN
GUARD	WATCH	EVENING	OWNER	HOUR
ALERT	CROWS	ANGELS	KNOW	HEAVEN

BIBLE VERSE BULBS: Give children pictures of Christmas bulbs to trace, cut out and decorate with glitter or flocking. Write parts of today's Bible verse on the bulbs and hang them on a large green poster-board tree (either with the branches in the drawing or just a triangle). Children will enjoy learning their Bible verse from their own designed bulbs.

CANDLE ART: Give children small rectangle strips of paper to glue to a piece of construction paper to look like candles. Children can draw the yellow flame or be given cut out yellow flames to glue on their art as well. Give children ideas of words to write on their candles, such as CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH, or WATCH FOR HIS RETURN, or GREAT JOY, etc.

CHRISTMAS IS...BANNER: Provide a long piece of white paper for children to decorate in ways that will help them to anticipate Christmas and to know the TRUE MEANING of Christmas, such as JESUS IS CHRISTMAS, or GIVING INSTEAD OF RECEIVING, CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH, or WORSHIP AND PRAISE JESUS, SERVE AND LOVE JESUS, SHARE HIS LOVE!





Color the manger scene, then each day color one star beginning with number one.
(You could also use star stickers instead of coloring the stars.)