

Snow Hill United Methodist Church
Advent Devotional 2020



Christmas Symbols

The Chrismon tree had its origin in the Lutheran Church of the Ascension of Danville, VA in 1957. They wanted to make inexpensive homemade ornaments for their church Christmas tree that would convey the true meaning of Christmas. The idea has spread to Christians all over the world. A Chrismon cannot be bought or sold, they can only be made and given in love and celebration of Christ's birth.

The designs are monograms of and symbols for our Lord Jesus. Because these designs have been used by His followers since Biblical times, they are the heritage of all Christians and serve to remind each of us of the one we follow who is Jesus Christ. They are made with white and gold. White suggests the innocence, purity, and perfection of our Savior. In our culture, it is also the color of joy. Gold represents the glory and majesty of God and the Son of God.

In 1978 the United Methodist Women were granted permission to introduce the Chrismon tree to Snow Hill. Some of the ornaments on our tree today were made that first year. Some were made by loved ones that are no longer with us. Some were made by those we are blessed to have with us. Some were made with the hands of children from Bible Schools gone by. Our Chrismons are a cherished, physical expression of our love and awe of Jesus Christ our Savior. Enjoy this walk through our faith and cherish the memories from the past as you make new ones this year!








Advent Devotional Overview








Advent is a time when Christians prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ in the form of a human baby. Although this single event occurred about 2020 years ago, we stop and consider what that precious gift means to each of us. He came for the world, but he also came for each of us, as an individual. God knew that you would be sitting here on this day, reading this page just like He knew you needed a Savior.








Since 2020 has caused us to do things differently, we are not going to be gathering to participate in our normal Advent activities. This devotional is intended to draw us together as we read the same words individually each day. Our prayer is that you will set aside a time each day, maybe gather the family together, and consider the symbol that has such rich meaning to our faith.








- Read the description of the symbol.
- Look up the scriptures and read them aloud.
- Spend a few minutes thanking God for sending His one and only Son. Ask Him to renew your excitement for His story in your life. Share your story with others.
- Pray for our church members, especially those isolated. Feel the love of your church family as we do this together.

May your love for Christ become fresh and new as you consider His promises through symbols of our faith.

<p>Sunday Dec 6</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Bible/Holy Scripture</p> <p>The bible told of Jesus' coming many, many years before he was born. Specific components of his birth, life, resurrection and eternal reign were foretold throughout scriptures.</p> <p>Isaiah 7:14 Isaiah 9:2-7 Isaiah 40:3 Micah 5:2</p>
<p>Monday Dec 7</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">The Hand of God</p> <p>While man-made religions are only feeble attempts to reach out in search of God; Christianity presents an Eternal Father reaching out in love, to a lost and dying world.</p> <p>Deut 4:33-35; 5:15 Joshua 4:23-24 John 3:16 Romans 8:34 -39</p>
<p>Tuesday Dec 8</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Circle</p> <p>The ring represents the eternal quality of each of the Trinity since the circle has no apparent beginning or ending. Also, reminds us of God's love for us that has no ending.</p> <p>Genesis 1:26 Prov 8:22-31 Isaiah 40:28-31 Rev 1:4-8</p>
<p>Wednesday Dec 9</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Three Circles Intertwining</p> <p>Each circle represents one of the Persona in the Trinity. The rings are intertwined, yet the separate Persons thereof.</p> <p>Matt 3:13-17 John 14:26 Acts 2:32-33 Gal 1:3-4 2 Cor 13:14 2 Peter 3:8-15a</p>
<p>Thursday Dec 10</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Triangle</p> <p>Any design of three equal sides. Represents the Holy Trinity, one God in three Persons.</p> <p>Matt 28:19 John 10:30 John 14:16-17, 26 1 Cor 8:6 2 Cor 12:14 1 Peter 1:2</p>
<p>Friday Dec 11</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">The Triquetra and Circle</p> <p>The endless circle suggests eternity. The triquetra—the figure composed of three separate and equal arcs— symbolizes the One God who showed himself to man in three separate and distinct persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.</p> <p>John 1:1-3 John 5:10-24 John 15:26 1 John 5:7-8</p>
<p>Saturday Dec 12</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Bell</p> <p>The bell sounds forth of God's word and serves as a reminder that God should have first priority in our lives.</p> <p>Exodus 20:3 Psalm 100 Psalm 150</p>

<p>Monday Dec 13</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Grapes</p> <p>Jesus used the common knowledge of vineyards and grapes to teach lessons. Also represents the blood of our Lord given for us.</p> <p>Matt 7:13-20 John 15:1-11</p>
<p>Tuesday Dec 14</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Goblet</p> <p>The Cup is the symbol of the Lord's Last Supper with his disciples. He commanded us to share the bread and wine together to remember what He has done for us.</p> <p>Matthew 26:26-29 Luke 22:14-20</p>
<p>Wednesday Dec 15</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Crown of Thorns</p> <p>This can also be called the mockery crown. It is the symbol of humiliation and suffering, plaited by the soldiers and imposed upon Jesus during his trial before Pilate.</p> <p>Matt 27:29 Mark 15:17 John 19:2,5</p>
<p>Thursday Dec 16</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cross</p> <p>The cross is a reminder of the Lord's sacrifice that paid the penalty for our rebellion and provided a way for us to come back to God. It is through the cross that we received forgiveness and salvation and we are able to stand perfectly righteous in the sight of God.</p> <p>Luke 14:27 John 19:17-36 Cor 1:18 1 Peter 2:4-10</p>
<p>Friday Dec 17</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">HIS Cross</p> <p>Monogram for our Lord's given name based on the Greek for Jesus (IHS)</p> <p>John 1:9-18 Colossians 1:15-23 Colossians 2:8-15</p>
<p>Friday Dec 18</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Butterfly</p> <p>The butterfly comes from its time in the cocoon after being a caterpillar. It is as if the caterpillar has died, then is resurrected again in a glorified body. This is what it was like for Jesus who died and then rose again in a glorified body.</p> <p>Rom 6:8-11 1 Cor 6:14; 15:20-23 1 Thes 4:14-17 1 Pet 1:3</p>
<p>Saturday Dec 19</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Crown of Glory</p> <p>The crown has always been a visible symbol of a ruler's power and authority. On our tree, this is the ultimate sovereignty and majesty due to the Son of God. Kingship of our Lord; His victory over sin and death; His place of honor at the right hand of God the father. At His return, Jesus will be crowned "King of Kings".</p> <p>Isaiah 9:7 Psalm 45:6 Hebrews 1:7-9 Rev 11:15</p>

<p>Sunday Dec 20</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Rose of Sharon</p> <p>The most popular symbolism is that of the Nativity. Isaiah’s prophecy was that one day “the desert would blossom as the rose.” This prophecy was fulfilled when a virgin conceived and bore a son and called His name Jesus.</p> <p>Isaiah 35:12 Luke 1: 26-38;46-55</p>
<p>Monday Dec 21</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Epiphany Star</p> <p>A star appeared to the Wise Men at the time of Jesus birth which directed them to find the baby.</p> <p>Num 24:17 Matt 2: 1-12</p>
<p>Tuesday Dec 22</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Shepherd Crook</p> <p>When baby Jesus was born, God could have yelled in the temple to the “holy” people or told the rich people of the time. But He sent an angel to the lowliest of shepherds out in the fields with dirty sheep.</p> <p>Luke 2:8-20 John10:1-17</p>
<p>Wednesday Dec 23</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Angel of God</p> <p>An angel announced the birth and resurrection of Christ.</p> <p>Exodus 3:2-6 Luke 1:5- 24</p>
<p>Thursday Dec 24</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Nativity</p> <p>Jesus was born a tiny baby in Bethlehem where cows were kept because there was no room for them in the inn, just as scripture had foretold.</p> <p>Luke 2:1-20</p>
<p>Friday Dec 25</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Manger Scene CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p>The shepherds found the baby just as the angels had told them. Imagine the excitement and reverence!</p> <p>Matt 1:18-25</p>
<p>Saturday Dec 26</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Fish</p> <p>The Greek word for fish forms an acrostic of the first letters of “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior”. Early Christians drew a fish in the sand to reveal both identity and basis of their faith. This is one of the most ancient symbols of Christ.</p> <p>Mark 1:16-20 Matt 14:15-21</p>

<p>Sunday Dec 27</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Heart</p> <p>God's love came down to us that first Christmas. The heart also represents charity – taking care of others.</p> <p>Matthew 25: 34-45</p>
<p>Monday Dec 28</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Crown on Cross</p> <p>The Kingship of our Christ. His victory over sin and death. His place of honor at the right hand of God.</p> <p>Romans 8:31-39 I Cor 15:55-57 Revelation 14:14</p>
<p>Tuesday Dec 29</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cross in Eternity</p> <p>God was always, is always, and will be. He never changes.</p> <p>Ecclesiastes 3:11 Psalm 136 Matt 25:46 John 6:50-71</p>
<p>Wednesday Dec 30</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">CHI RHO Cross</p> <p>The first letters of the word Christ in the Greek alphabet.</p> <p>Luke 24:44-49 Romans 1:16 1 Cor 1:20-25</p>
<p>Thursday Dec 31</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cross Crosslet</p> <p>The spread of Christianity on the North, East, South, and West – to the ends of the earth.</p> <p>Mark 8:34 Mark 16:12-18</p>
<p>Friday Jan 1</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cross with Orb</p> <p>The orb represents the earth and the cross over it reminds us that the world needs Christ. It is also known as the Cross of Victory signifying the conquest of the world by Christianity</p> <p>Psalm 105:1 Isaiah 12:4 Matt 28:18-20</p>
<p>Saturday Jan 2</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">People (US!)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We take Christ out into the world together</p> <p>Matt 5:14-16; 28:19 Luke 4:18 Acts 1:8; 13:47</p> <p><i>Note: This was made at Vacation Bible School one year. EVERYONE (children, teachers, and all involved in some way added a bead. Look at the beauty we create when we join together!)</i></p>