ADVENT An

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word "Adventus" which means "coming" or "arrival." Christmas is celebrated because it is the coming of Jesus - God in the flesh. Traditionally, Christian churches have celebrated four aspects of the life of Christ that help us celebrate his coming into the world - Peace, Joy, Love, and Hope. Christ's love is the one thing above all that slaps us over the head as we read through his story. He is constantly serving and sacrificing for the good of those he loves and putting himself and his needs last for the betterment of others. The peace Jesus brings is uncanny. We're told "Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus our Lord." (Philippians 4:6-7) This unfathomable peace is given to Mary and Joseph when a virgin was with child and is even with Jesus on the road to his death. The Greek word for "Hope" is "elpis" which means "expectation." Hope isn't a wish or desire. It is something we expect. Because of the incarnation of Christ, we expect great things. Knowing all of this, how can we help but be overwhelmed with joy? It is a joy that only the life of Jesus and his purpose lived out can bring to us. This Christmas season in kids church, we will learn about each of these four Advent themes as we study the incarnation of God himself!

KIDS CHURCH 12/08 - 12/15