

THE
ARRIVAL



CHRISTMAS 2023



WELCOME

I love everything about Christmas! One of the traditions in my home growing up was the tradition of Advent. Every night during the weeks leading up to Christmas, we would gather as a family, light a candle, sing a Christmas song, read the Bible and pray. There was such great anticipation, not just for Christmas morning, but for *the Arrival* of Jesus.

This is a journey I would like to invite you on as we make our way to Christmas. As with any journey, we are going to need some supplies, equipment and directions. This Arrival booklet will be our guide as we prepare our lives and hearts for the birth of Jesus.

HOPE • PEACE • JOY • LOVE

In our four week journey leading up to Christmas, we will explore these four words and encounter the greatest Christmas gift of all, Jesus. I pray that God would stir your hearts to redirect some of your Christmas spending to the most poor and vulnerable around the world. God has been so generous to us, how can we not be generous to His people? Join me in prayerfully considering how to give this Christmas and together, we might just change the world.

May your home be filled with hope, with the peace that goes beyond our ability to understand, with the joy that gives us strength, and the love of Jesus that gives life to all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Tim Poetzl
Lead Pastor

STANWOOD
FOURSQUARE
CHURCH

THE ARRIVAL JOURNEY

We invite you to take time on the days leading up to Christmas to use this booklet and go on the *Arrival Journey* to prepare for the birth of Jesus.



READ

Gather together with friends & family, light an Arrival candle, sing a Christmas song & read a daily scripture provided each week.



PRAY

Each week, you will find a prayer to pray & invite God to speak to you & prepare your heart for Christmas.



SERVE

In the pages ahead, you'll find ways to bless your neighbors & community with the love, peace, joy & hope of Jesus. We've provided some ideas, but feel free to add your own!



GIVE

As we pray & seek the Lord, He expands our hearts to see how much we have & how much we have to give. We invite you to re-direct some of your Christmas spending to give to the most vulnerable & marginalized people in the world.



ARRIVAL CANDLES ARE AVAILABLE,
BEGINNING NOVEMBER 19

Pick up candles Sunday in the main building
or in the office on Tuesday 10am - 3pm.

TO GIVE TO THE ARRIVAL

Head to the Stanwood Foursquare website and click on *The Arrival* tab, or choose gifts from an Arrival Gift Guide available at church.

www.4sq.church/the-arrival

CHANGE THE WAY YOU GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS
AND YOU MIGHT JUST CHANGE THE WORLD.

The Spirit of the Sovereign
Lord is on me, because the
Lord has anointed me to
proclaim the good news to
the poor. He has sent me to
bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the
captives and release from
darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year
of the Lord's favor.

ISAIAH 61:1



Week One

HOPE

O Come All Ye Faithful



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O
 2. Sing choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, O
 3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

Em A D G D/A A D G



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem! Come and be -
 sing, all ye bright — Hosts of heav'n — a - bove! Glo - ry to
 Je - sus, to Thee — be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the

D/A G/B C A/C# D G



-hold Him, born the King of an - gels! O come, let us a - dore Him, O
 God, all glo - ry in the high - est!
 Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

D C A/C#



come, let us a - dore Him; O come, let us a -

D G/B C G/D D G



-dore Him, _____ Christ _____ the Lord!

Go to Spotify and search
4SQ Arrival Carols 2023
 to listen and sing along.



READ

In our first week of Advent, we'll explore the biblical meaning of **HOPE**. Light an Arrival candle and read a verse about hope each day and reflect.

DAY 1
Isaiah 9:2-7

DAY 2
Jeremiah 33:14-16

DAY 3
Romans 13:11-14

DAY 4
Psalms 33:20-22

DAY 5
Luke 1:26-38

PRAY



Lord, thank You that you gave us the gift of hope, Your son Jesus, to live among us. Help us to see that You are always with us and with those in need around the world. Thank You, Father, that we always have hope in You.

Amen



SERVE

Ukraine Backpacks

Last Christmas, Yulia and her husband Nick traveled to Ukraine to deliver over 400 Christmas gifts packed and wrapped by Stanwood Foursquare. As they were driving to a local village, they saw a young boy standing on the side of the road next to his home which had been severely damaged by the war. Nick and Yulia offered him a Christmas gift and his face lit up with so much joy! He then told Yulia that he had a brother and that his father was a soldier fighting on the front lines. Yulia, Nick and her father prayed with the boy sharing the hope and love of Jesus.



Yulia & Nick Clack delivering gifts last Christmas

Yulia's family and church in Ukraine are working tirelessly to serve families and children who have been displaced by the war. Many of these children have been orphaned as their fathers have died on the battlefield.

Let's partner with Yulia and her family to bring the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus to children in Ukraine by giving a Christmas backpack specifically designed for them.



Giving Tree

Provide a backpack for a child in Ukraine this Christmas! Grab a 4SQ backpack and tag for a child from the **Giving Tree** at Stanwood Foursquare and prepare a backpack to be sent to children in Ukraine in time for Christmas.

- There are tags for boys and girls ages 2-14 years old
- Instructions for filling backpacks will be provided with each tag
- **Backpacks need to be turned in by Dec. 3**

"You Are Loved & Believed In" in Ukrainian

Тебе люблять і в тебе вірять



Ukraine Outreach

Ukraine



Over the last two years, Ukraine has been devastated by the ongoing war. Many people have lost their homes, their livelihood, and many children are mourning the loss of their fathers and family members. Stanwood Foursquare has had the joy of partnering with *United to Help* in Ukraine to send over 30 tons of humanitarian aid and Christmas gifts for children.

Next summer, 2024, Stanwood Foursquare is sending a team to help serve alongside *United to Help*, to bring encouragement, distribute aid and share the hope of Jesus. We will be helping to facilitate a summer camp for children, offering a week of fun along with opportunities to learn English, a necessity for future economic success. We will also rebuild a playground destroyed by the war.

Your gifts will support the ongoing work of *United to Help* as well as provide the supplies necessary for the summer camp and playground construction.

I would like to apply to go

\$50
humanitarian aid kit

\$500
scholarships for summer
camp

\$1000
support *United to Help*

\$10,000
rebuild playground
destroyed during war



Homes of Hope

Mexico



Sofia was working two jobs but could only afford to rent a small shack in Ensenada, Mexico with a leaky roof and dirt floor. She dreamed of owning her own home with a solid roof and floor where she could raise her son Max.

With the help of *Homes of Hope*, Sofia was able to buy a small piece of land and a team from Stanwood Foursquare went to Ensenada, to build a house for her and her son, making the hope of Jesus a reality.

Your gift will provide the lumber and materials needed to build a house that will truly become a home of hope. We also invite you to prayerfully consider joining us on one of our teams to go and build homes for families like Sofia's.

\$150
towards a home

\$500
towards a home

\$13,000
provides an entire home





Week Two

PEACE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel



Em Bm/D G/B C G/B D G D Bm C

O come, O come Em-- man --- u-- el, and ran-- som cap-- tive
O come Thou Day-- spring come _____ and cheer our spir--- its by Thine

Am Em/B Bm Em Am Em/G D/F# Em Bm C D Em

Is-- -- ra -- el; That mourns in lone - ly ex -- ile, here. un-
ad --- vent here; Dis - perse the gloom--y clouds of night, and

D G C G/B D G D Em Bm G

til the Son of God _____ ap -- pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em --
death's dark shad - ows put _____ to flight

C G/B D Em D/F# G C Am Em/B Bm Em

man --- --- u -- el shall come to thee, O Is --- ra -- el!

Go to Spotify and search
4SQ Arrival Carols 2023
to listen and sing along.



READ

In our second week of Advent, we'll explore the Scriptures as we discover Jesus, our **Prince of Peace**.

DAY 1 | **Isaiah 11:1-10**

DAY 2 | **Micah 5:2-5**

DAY 3 | **Luke 2:1-7**

DAY 4 | **Luke 2:8-14**

DAY 5 | **Luke 2:15-20**

PRAY



Lord,
Thank You for sending your son, the Prince of Peace.
Thank You for Your peace that surpasses all understanding.
Guard our hearts and minds with Your peace and help
us remember those who need Your peace this Christmas.

Amen



Christmas Cards

The Christmas season can be a lonely time especially for those who are living alone, in nursing homes or assisted living. Take some time and write a Christmas card to one or a few people and let them know they are loved and believed in!

- ◆ You can find inexpensive Christmas cards at your local dollar store
- ◆ Gather some paper, coloring pens or pencils and create your own homemade cards
- ◆ Download the card template below, print and add a message of hope and kindness



Scan here to download a
Christmas Card template



*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord
has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted..."*
Isaiah 61:1



Clean Water

Namibia, Africa



On the northern side of the desert in Namibia, Caspir Amukoshi is the pastor of the local Foursquare church, sharing the hope of Jesus with the people of this dry desert country. Clean water is almost impossible to find and families have to walk over 5 miles to source water that is dirty and full of harmful bacteria.

Partnering with *Foursquare Disaster Relief*, and local churches, your gift towards water filtration buckets and wells, will allow the people of Northern Namibia to access clean water and hear the Good News of Jesus.

- \$25
provides one water
filter bucket
- \$200
towards a water well
- \$500
towards a water well
- \$10,600
provides an entire well



Health + Medicine

Burundi, Africa



Nala is 6 years old and lives in the remote village of Mwungere, Burundi. Last year, her father died of malaria leaving her and her brother alone. Malaria is a constant concern for the people of Burundi. Fortunately, malaria and other local illnesses can be effectively treated with simple interventions, providing much-needed relief.

Partnering with *Foursquare Disaster Relief*, and local churches in Burundi, your gift will provide malaria medication, de-worming pills and mobile medical clinics while sharing the love of Jesus allowing Nala and children like her to live a long and healthy life.

- \$25
provides malaria medication for 25 people
- \$120
provides de-worming medication for 1000 people
- \$500
provides medication + supplies for 1400 people
- \$10,000
provides a 7 day clinic





Week Three

JOY

Joy to the World



D G D/A A⁷ D G A D



1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth re - ceive her King; Let
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns; Let men their songs em - ploy; While
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground; He
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove the



ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room. And heav'n and na - ture
 fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re - peat the sound - ing
 comes to make His bless - ings flow far as the curse is
 glo - ries of His right - eous - ness. And won - ders of His

A A⁷



sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing. And
 joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy. Re -
 found, far as the curse is found. Far
 love, and won - ders of His love. And

D G D/A A⁷ D



heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 -peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as, the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of His love.



Go to Spotify and search
4SQ Arrival Carols 2023
 to listen and sing along.



READ

In our third week of Advent, we'll explore the biblical meaning of **JOY** and how it all leads to Jesus. How do we have joy in uncertain circumstances?

DAY 1
Isaiah 35:1-10

DAY 2
Matthew 2:1-12

DAY 3
Luke 2:21-35

DAY 4
Luke 2:36-40

DAY 5
Philippians 4:4-7

PRAY



Lord,
Thank You for being our source of joy. Thank You that even in times of trouble, You are with us and Your joy sustains us. Fill us with Your joy this Christmas season so that we reflect Your love, peace, hope and joy to others.
Amen



Volunteer at the Local Food Bank

This Christmas season, there are many who struggle to put food on the table. Head to your local Food Bank and see if there is a time for you to volunteer to serve the community.

Stanwood/Camano Food Bank

360-629-2789

www.stanwoodcamanofoodbank.org

Skagit Valley Neighbors in Need

(360) 982-2089

www.svneighborsinneed.com

Arlington Community Food Bank

(360) 435-1631

www.arlingtonfoodbank.org



*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord
has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted..."*
Isaiah 61:1



Livestock

Morocco



In early September 2023, a deadly 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit the isolated Atlas Mountains in Morocco. Hundreds of thousands of survivors have lost everything and some remote villages in the mountains remain without aid, food and supplies. Families lost farms and livestock, their sole source of food and income.

Partnering with *Foursquare Disaster Relief (FDR)*, we are able to provide the necessary livestock and share the message of Jesus with those recovering from this disaster, giving them the hope of a better life with long-term access to income and nourishment.

\$10
pair of chickens

\$65
one goat

\$250
one donkey

\$250
one sheep



Think Small Nepal



In May, 2023, *Think Small* partnered with a local church in Nepal to host an outreach for children to train them to resist human trafficking and abuse, a devastating reality in this country. The only time these children were able to come was at dawn, before school began. Over 40 children walked for 3 miles in the dark to reach the church before sunrise. When they arrived, local leaders shared with them their value, how God sees them and loves them, and trained them in how to resist human trafficking. At the end of the event, all 40 children said "YES" to Jesus and returned the next week to learn to be disciples of Jesus.

Through Stanwood Church's partnership with *Think Small*, last year over 3500 children received Jesus, entered discipleship and were trained to prevent trafficking, abuse and drugs.

- \$10
provides one Bible
- \$50
towards human trafficking
prevention event
- \$200
towards human trafficking
prevention event
- \$500
provides a human
trafficking prevention event





Week Four

LOVE



Away in a Manger



1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed; The lit - tle Lord
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the Ba - by a - wakes; But lit - tle Lord
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus! I ask Thee to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky ____ looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes. I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look
 -ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where He lay; The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky; And stay by my cra - dle 'til morn - ing is nigh.
 Thy ten - der care; And fit us for heav - en, to live with Thee there.



Go to Spotify and search
4SQ Arrival Carols 2023
 to listen and sing along.



READ

In our final week of Advent, we'll explore the biblical meaning of **LOVE**. Light an Arrival candle and read a verse about love each day and reflect.

DAY 1 **Lamentations 3:31-33**

DAY 2 **Matthew 1:18-25**

DAY 3 **Luke 10:25-28**

DAY 4 **Luke 2:41-52**

DAY 5 **John 3:16-17**

PRAY



Lord,
Thank You that You love us. Thank you for sending Your son Jesus, the perfect gift of love. We pray that our lives would be filled and overflowing with the power of Your love so we can make a difference in this world and bring honor to You. Amen



SERVE

Happy Birthday Jesus!

On Christmas Day, before opening presents or heading out to Christmas activities, bake a cake (you can use a boxed mix or any simple cake recipe), put some candles on it and sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

This is a fun way to remember who we are celebrating and why!



Taste of Home Chocolate Cake Recipe

2/3 cup butter, softened

1 2/3 cups sugar

3 large eggs

2 cups flour

2/3 baking cocoa

1 1/4 tsp baking soda

1 tsp salt

1 1/3 cup milk

In a bowl, cream butter and sugar until fluffy.

Add eggs one at a time beating well after each

addition. Combine flour, cocoa, baking soda

and salt; add to creamed mixture alternately

with milk, beating until smooth after each

addition. Pour batter into a greased and floured

13"x 9" pan. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes or

until toothpick comes out clean. Cool and serve

with favorite frosting.

"After Jesus' birth, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the one who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star rising and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1



Native Peoples

North America



Merval, a young pastor and trained barber who is part of the Crow Nation, recently planted a church in the town of Lodge Grass on the Crow Reservation in Montana. Several years ago, Stanwood Foursquare partnered with *Arise Native Americans* to help build a building in Lodge Grass that now serves both as a gathering place for the church and a barbershop! Merval is able to use his skills cutting hair to support his young family while pastoring this community.

Arise Native American Ministry organizes camps for families to offer a week of rest, equipping, training, fun and encouragement for leaders like Merval, doing Kingdom work in Native communities all over North America.

Your gift will provide Native families the opportunity to attend a family camp and help plant churches in Native communities.

- \$25
scholarship towards camp
- \$120
sends one person to camp
- \$500
entire family scholarship
- \$1000
camp operations



HOW TO GIVE

ARRIVAL OFFERINGS IN PERSON December 10, 17, 23 & 24

✓ IN PERSON

Fill out your information (for tax deduction) and place your gift in *The Arrival* offering envelope located in the back of the Worship Center.

✓ ONLINE

Scan the QR code or go to www.4sq.church, click on *The Arrival* tab, and choose the gifts you would like to give from *The Arrival Store*.



SCAN HERE

✓ 4SQ APP

Download the Stanwood Foursquare App to give safely and easily. Search in any app store to find and download.

✓ BY MAIL

Fill out *The Arrival* Gift Guide and mail to P.O. Box 183 Stanwood, WA 98292





PARTNERS



www.foursquaredisasterrelief.org



www.foursquaremissions.org/about-fmi



www.ywamsandiegobaja.org/homesofhope



www.thinksmallfoundation.org



www.arisenativeamericans.org

JOIN US ON ONE OF OUR MISSION TEAMS!

Head to the website www.4sq.church/missions
or email missions@4sq.church

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