

Calendar Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Due no later than 6 days after the calendar date)

Day in the Church Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT'S GOING ON HERE

*"... just come to see me every day and let me remind you how much I care."*

Eli the Maker to Punchinello in  
*You Are Special* by Max Lucado

### ADVENT

It is December and naturally, we think of Christmas. But, before Christmas is Advent. Advent is the season of hope.

Sometimes, folks think the season of Advent is a season to prepare for celebrating Christmas, that Advent is the season to pull out all the decorations and sing all the hymns of Christmas for three or four weeks. It is not. Advent is a season for hoping in quiet, for remembering that God in Christ kept his promise and came and that God in Christ will keep his promise and come again and that God in Christ is keeping his promise right now to be with us always. Advent is a time of standing on tiptoe and looking ahead to when God's Kingdom will fully arrive, and with that view in our sight, being open to examining how we might need to turn from ways of living now that will not be how living will be when the Kingdom does fully come. Does that mean we're supposed to get all sad? No. Again, Advent is the season of hope - Emmanuel who has come is coming again.

### I'M WORTH SOMETHING TO GOD! I'M WORTH DYING FOR!

Yes, you are!! Today, you've heard again that you're God's child. From worship, what is a message of hope you have for the world today?

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Philippians 2:5-11