November 30, 2003: Advent 1

Be alert! God is on the move!

Focus statement: Be alert! The days are surely coming. Even now the Lord, the righteous branch, is springing up to bring justice and peace to the land.

Call to Worship

Leader	Be alert! Wait for God's promise!
People	A righteous branch is springing up who will bring justice throughout the land.
Leader	Strengthen your hearts in holiness while you wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus.
People	As a fig tree sprouts leaves when summer is near, so the signs of God's coming reign appear.
ALL	**Lord of Life, our redemption draws near; come near to us and be our salvation.**

Prayer of Confession

Guiding God,
we confess that many times we lose the path that leads to you.
In our impatience we take detours that lead us away
from your steadfast love and faithfulness.
Teach us your paths, O Lord.
Keep us in your truth, and guide us,
for you are the God of our salvation;
for you we wait all day long. AMEN

Benediction

Leader	May God guide you on paths of faithfulness.
ALL	**May God cause us to increase and abound in love for one another and for all, even as our hearts grow strong in peace**.

December 7, 2003: Advent 2

Be alert! God is on the move!

Focus Statement: ***Prepare the way of the Lord! Purify your hearts in preparation for the King. God is on the move raising up a mighty Savior who will bring righteousness and peace.***

Call to Worship

Leader	Prepare the way of the Lord!
People	The One whom we seek will suddenly come; the One in whom we delight indeed is coming.
Leader	But who can endure the day of God's coming?
People	We look for the One who will purify us like gold and silver.
All	**Come, Lord of life, cleanse us and prepare our hearts for your renewing work today.**

Prayer of Confession

Refiner God,
we confess that we are unholy and unwhole.
Distracted by deadlines and too many things to do,
we forget to look for your presence and your movement in our lives.
Though we long for peace, we can't find peace anywhere –
in our own lives or in the world.
Be patient with us.
Cleanse us and forgive our sins.
Let your tender mercy shine upon us,
and guide our feet into the way of peace. AMEN

Benediction

Leader	Now go forth in the paths of peace.
ALL	**For we know that God's good work among us is moving to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.** .

December 14, 2003: Advent 3

Be alert! God is on the move!

Focus Statement: ***Rejoice! Sing for joy! Victory is near. God the warrior is in our midst liberating the oppressed and proclaiming the good news of peace to all people.***

Call to Worship

Leader	Sing to the Lord! Shout the good news!
Left	The Lord is near!
Right	The Lord rejoices over us in gladness!
Leader	The Lord sets us free and renews us in love!
ALL	**Come, Lord of life,**
	we gather to celebrate the gift of our salvation,
	to proclaim your peace,
	and to worship you with thankful hearts,
	for you are great in our midst.

Prayer of Confession

Liberating God,
we confess that we forget you are in our midst.
We do not always live in freedom,
and we forget to sing your praises,
Deliver us, O God.
Show us your salvation
and move in our lives to renew us in love.
Open our hearts to proclaim your goodness,
to join you in setting captives free,
and to bring liberty and peace to your world. AMEN

Benediction

Leader	May the joy of the Lord guide you on your way.
ALL	**May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding**
	guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

December 21, 2003: Advent 4

Be alert! God is on the move!

Focus Statement: ***Magnify the Lord! The fruit of Mary's womb brings us salvation. God is on the move creating a surprising new world order of mercy, truth, and peace.***

Call to Worship

Leader	Magnify the Lord! Rejoice in God our Savior.
People	The Mighty One, whose name is holy, is doing great things for all people according to the promise.
Leader	From the blessed fruit of Mary's womb, God is making a new order of mercy, truth and peace.
ALL	**Lord of life, look with favor upon your servants who have come to do your will and to worship you this day. AMEN**

Prayer of Confession

Mothering God**,** the time of birth draws near,
but we confess we are not yet ready.
At every turn we see cruelty and injustice;
we feel helpless against such overwhelming odds.
Even within our own hearts
a place is not fully prepared to receive you.
Remind us that your order is not our order.
(Silence)
Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved. AMEN

Spoken benediction

Leader	Go freely now in God's joy and peace.
ALL	**May God bless our believing and bring to pass all that has been promised.**

December 28, 2003: Christmas One

Be alert! God is on the move!

Focus Statement: ***Praise the Lord, heaven and earth! Clothe yourselves with love. Christ the Child King has arrived and is moving to bind everything together in harmony and peace.***

Call to Worship

Leader	On this day of joyful celebration, let us join the praises of all creation in heaven and on earth.
People	By God's command, all things are created; today God's glory shines in the face of Jesus; today God's powerful Spirit is on the move in our world.
ALL	**Lord of life, receive our gifts of thanksgiving and praise; unite our hearts in your peace, and make us partners in your work to renew the earth as we gather in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN**

Prayer of Confession

Mighty Lord,
you have given us the gift of your Son, whose reign is peace and love.
You call us to live in harmony,
and you offer us the clothing of compassion and kindness.
Open our hearts to receive your wondrous gifts.
Renew in us your gift of forgiveness as we forgive one another.
Restore us to your love as the peace of Christ rules in our hearts.
Fill our hearts with gratitude as we join all nature's praise.
In the name of your beloved Son, we pray. AMEN

Benediction

Leader	May the word of Christ dwell in you richly, and may Christ's peace rule in your hearts.
ALL	**May the unity of Love bind us and all things together in perfect harmony.**

January 4, 2003: Epiphany

Be alert! God is on the move!

Focus Statement: ***Kneel down and pay homage to Christ the King! God, through the church, is on the move bringing justice to all nations so that righteousness may flourish and peace abound.***

Call to Worship

Leader	Arise! Shine! Our light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
People	Nations have come to God's light, and rulers to the brightness of God's dawn.
Leader	Rejoice in the richness of God's mystery revealed!
People	See the wisdom of God's eternal purpose made known!
ALL	**Lord of life, as we welcome your glorious light, we open our treasure chests to offer our gifts of worship and praise to honor and glorify you forever. AMEN**

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and giving God,
through the church you call us
to make known your wisdom to all rulers and nations
and to share the boundless riches of life in Christ with all.
Yet we confess that too often we forget our high calling.
We keep the good news to ourselves
and fail to share the mystery hidden for ages
and now revealed in Christ.
Open our eyes to the wonder of your love;
renew our commitment to proclaim your praise;
strengthen us to join your mission
that righteousness may flourish and peace abound. AMEN

Benediction

Leader	God lights your way with radiant glory!
ALL	**May we faithfully follow the paths of peace and justice and offer our lives in homage to Christ.**