

# Visual Proclamation

*in the season of Advent*

## Step One ~ Theological conversation

*Worship committee with direction from preachers and/or interpreters*

- God is ... unstoppable  
Related ideas: inevitable, organic, progressive, movement
- God's unstoppable work is ... restorative  
Related ideas: transformation, redemption, originating, fulfilling
- God's unstoppable work has a ... destination  
Related ideas: imagination, vision, finality, movement, trajectory, aim

## Step Two ~ Compatible design and theology

*Worship committee collaborating on behalf of their craft*

Unstoppable >>> progressive, moving, organic, invitational  
Restorative >>> visibly transformed, ritual opportunity  
Destination >>> concretized outcome, visible from beginning to end

## Step Three ~ Compatible design, theology and material

*Visual artist as biblical interpreter and worship leader*

The *Leader* team chose six distinct flowers to depict the theological “unstoppability” of Year B Advent texts. If flowers are chosen by your congregation as a symbol capable of carrying such meaning, floral images may be found around the church in ...

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| * Photos and Power Point                 | * origami (see enclosed patterns)    |
| * Classical images (ie. Georgia O'Keefe) | * silk flowers on white organza      |
| * Stitching, needlework, quilts          | * Banner design (see online)         |
| * Felt creations (see online)            | * Batik or tie dye – abstract floral |

If another theology is chosen, find materials and compositions that work to convey the scripture, engage the congregation and evoke participation throughout the season.

## Step Four ~ Worship Installation

*Final question: How is this design supported by the overall worship design?*

Like a sermon, a song or a prayer, the worship arts are incomplete until activated by the companion arts. How will the visual design be “installed” in the congregation's worship?

**Prayer installation** – images that evoke a sense of meditation, praise and confession

**Ritual installation** – images that invite intergenerational imagination and handling

**Sermon installation** – visual proclamation that mutually enhances verbal proclamation

**Musical installation** – compatible images, text and score that enhance understanding and deepen engagement with God, scripture, the church and mission

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## Weekly Florals

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*Additional research material*

### **Advent 1 – Crocus**

Metaphor: Announcing the new season

Symbolism: good news, youthful gladness, mirth, abundance, visions, abuse-not

Narrative: The story of Israel longing for God's presence, the modern story of the church wanting the very same thing in Jesus Christ.

### **Advent 2 – Cactus**

Metaphor: Faithfulness in desolate places

Symbolism: warmth, grandeur, bravery, endurance

Narrative: The story of John the Baptist preparing for Jesus' ministry and the ongoing work of obstacle-removal, hierarchy-leveling and road-building in harsh conditions.

### **Advent 3 – Clematis**

Metaphor: Tenacious beauty from old vines

Symbolism: mental strength, ingenuity, innovation

Narrative: The story of God's faithful presence, deliverance and provision for ancient Israel and the modern church.

### **Advent 4 – Orchids**

Metaphor: Clinging to the established, trustworthy, faithful

Symbolism: refinement to perfection, magnificence, beauty, purple spots are blood of Christ, Chinese symbol for many children

Narrative: The story of God's timeless work of redemption.

### **Christmas – Poinsettia**

Metaphor: An explosion of all creation joined in praise

Symbolism: 1828, Star of Bethlehem (Mexico) meaning Good News

Narrative: The story of God's revolutionary appearance and future work

### **Epiphany – Sunflower**

Turning toward the light

Symbolism: adoration, fertility, wisdom, worship, "You are splendid"

Narrative: The story of God's splendid news to the whole world and the world's freedom to respond.

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## About this season's colors

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**Purple**      royalty, penitence, suffering, expectation, honor

**Red**        divine zeal, Holy Spirit, faith of the martyrs, joy, community

**Gold**        worth, virtue, glory of God, Christian piety