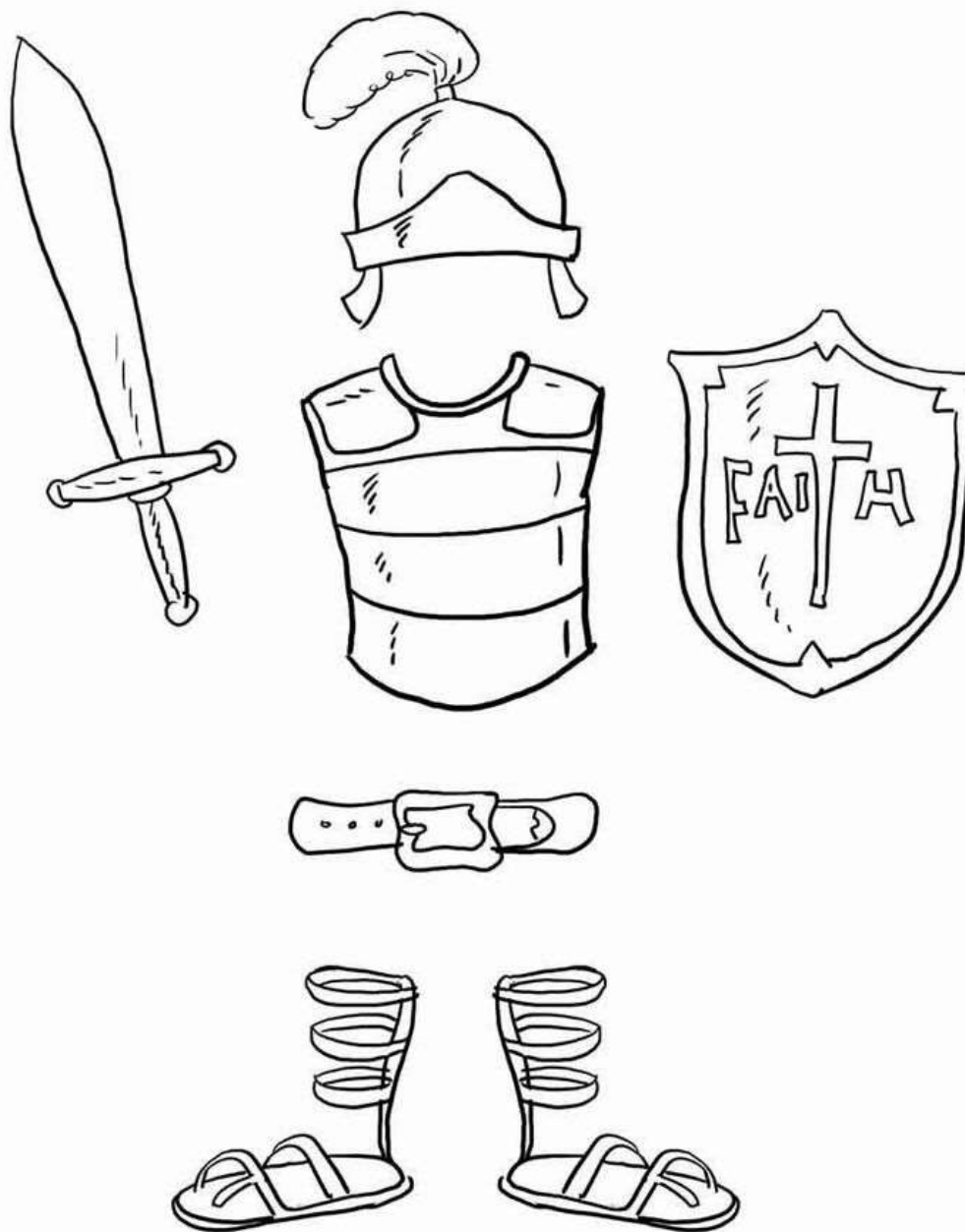


St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!
NOVEMBER 27, 2016—THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
PUTTING ON THE ARMOR OF CHRIST



“Almighty God, Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of Light.”

From the Collect for the Day, The First Sunday in Advent

Can you draw yourself wearing this armor?

Jesus is the light of the world—he lights our way when we are in darkness. Without light you might stumble over something or not be able to find your way. Jesus gives us light to see the right way to go, or when we are afraid and all seems dark and gloomy. Armor is something we wear to protect us from injury or harm. Soldiers and people who work with explosives wear armor. Sporting equipment is like armor--it protects you from injury and we wear it for everything from skating to football to skiing. You can make Jesus the armor that you wear every day. Courage to stand up for what we know is right, strength to keep going when days are tough, love, kindness and goodness are all part of the Armor of Light. Jesus wants to give us that strength and courage—every day!

**BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME:
THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS**

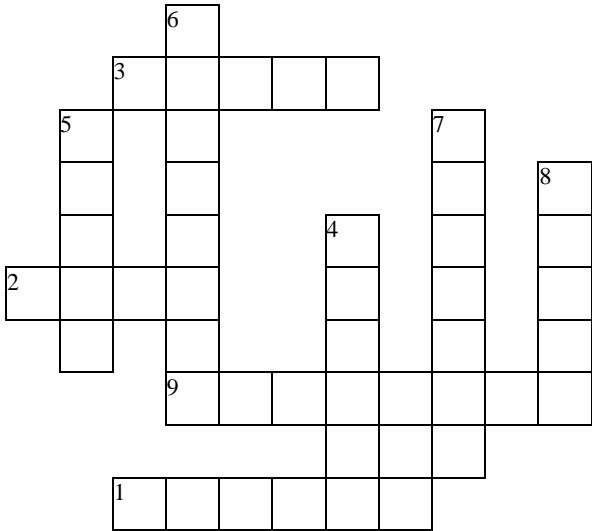
Advent is a very special season of the year—a short four-week period where we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. As we all well know, Advent is not a season that sells anything, so stores, TV and other secular venues don't mark this season at all. We go from Thanksgiving to Christmas. (Well, in some cases we seem to skip Thanksgiving altogether and go right from Halloween costumes to candy canes!) So, if we're going to make this a meaningful season which makes Christmas even more joyous and fulfilling, we have to be very intentional about what we do—about how we prepare during December, not just in baking, wrapping and decorating, but in praying, reading the bible and talking together as a family about what Christmas means to us.

Family Activities for Advent:

Make an Advent Wreath. Light it every evening and say a prayer together. (for suggestions, read "Making an Advent Wreath"

Make an Advent Chain, everyday add a link to the chain with a prayer of expectation or thanksgiving.

The Armor of Christ Crossword Puzzle



- Across**
- 1 Advent _____
 - 2 God _____s me!
 - 3 Not dark
 - 9 The power to resist something
- Down**
- 4 Season before Christmas
 - 5 Protective garments
 - 6 She treats people with _____. (a good way to treat people)
 - 7 Bravery
 - 8 Not a lie

Dinner Table Conversations:

- What is it like to wait for something exciting?*
- Are you waiting for anything special right now?*
- What kind of armor do soldiers wear? Why do they wear it?*
- What kind of armor do football players wear? Why do they wear it?*
- What is the "armor of light"? How can you wear that armor today?*

Answer Key:
Wreath, love, light, strength, Advent, armor, kindness,
courage, truth