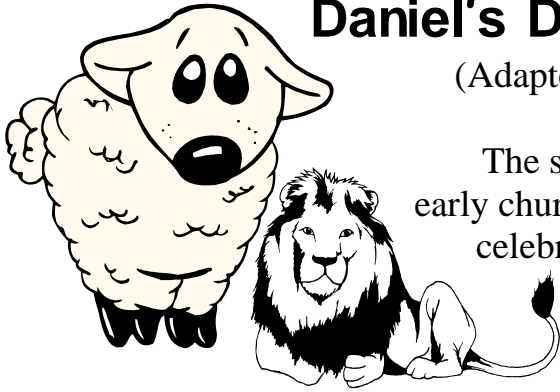


## Daniel's Den Advent Meanings (Part 4)

(Adapted from a Worship Service here at Parkway, Nov 29, 1998)



The season of “**Advent**” originated out of a desire on the part of the early church to provide a period of preparation and reflection before the celebration of Christmas. “Advent” means the coming or arrival, especially of something awaited or momentous.

### What's a Carol and how is it different than a Hymn?

A “Carol” is simply a joyous song. As a transitive (and even intransitive) verb: it is to sing or call out something in a joyful and lively way – even birds can ‘carol’. The reason we call them “Christmas Carols” is because it’s a catalogue of songs we sing joyously around Christmas time, but aren’t necessarily ‘religious.’ “Walking In a Winter Wonderland”, “The Christmas Song (Chestnuts roasting by an open fire)”, “I’ll Be Home for Christmas”, “All I Want for Christmas are My Two Front Teeth”, even the “Chipmunk Christmas Song”, are all carols.

A Hymn is a song created, dedicated, and sung to: recognize, praise, or thank God. Some Hymns may also be ‘confessions’ or ‘admissions’ that include the preceding. Hymns are good any time of the year. Some hymns are more associated with Christmas time than other times of the year, but that’s a tradition-trap we create ourselves – not anything the authors intended.

### Why do we have TWO Worship Services on Christmas Eve?

It is our intention to hold two –VERY DIFFERENT – services on Christmas Eve. The early service is ‘youth-oriented’ and is intended to use language and symbols they may already be familiar with. The late service is a very traditional, rich, solemn service, intended to end right-around midnight. We try to greet, and take our leave of one-another on Christmas morning. See if you can, by the titles of the sermons, get an idea about the kinds of services they will be:

6:00 p.m. “Cool Christmas Stuff (Part 5): Cookies and Milk”

11:15 p.m. “Cool Christmas Stuff (Part 6): Star Gazing”

Just so you know, December 30<sup>th</sup> is “Cool Christmas Stuff (Part 7): There’s no place like HOME for the Holy Days.”

Christmas day is the ‘end’ of Advent.

### What's Epiphany?

Epiphany means: ‘revelation’ or ‘enlightened.’ It’s the Christian festival marking the visit of the Magi to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. We celebrate it this year, January 6<sup>th</sup>.