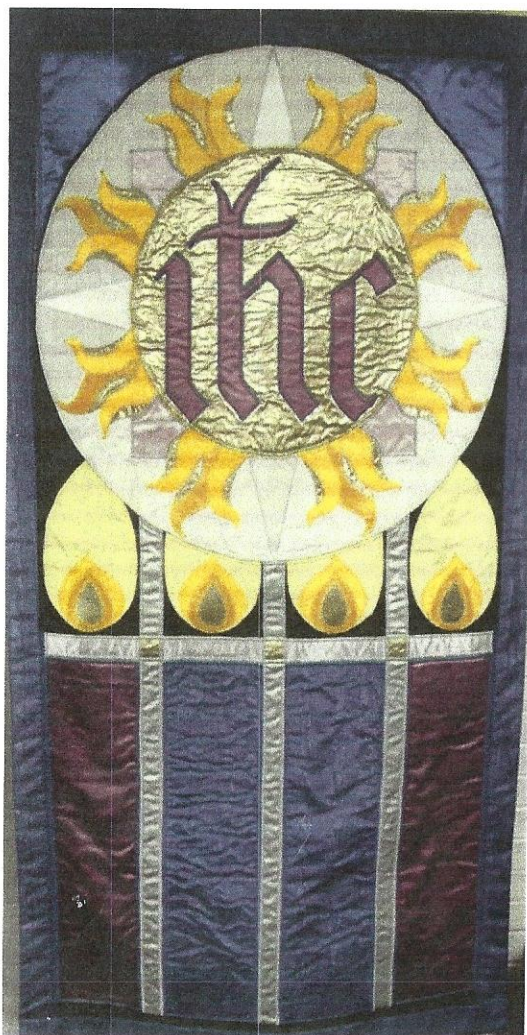


## **THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BANNER**



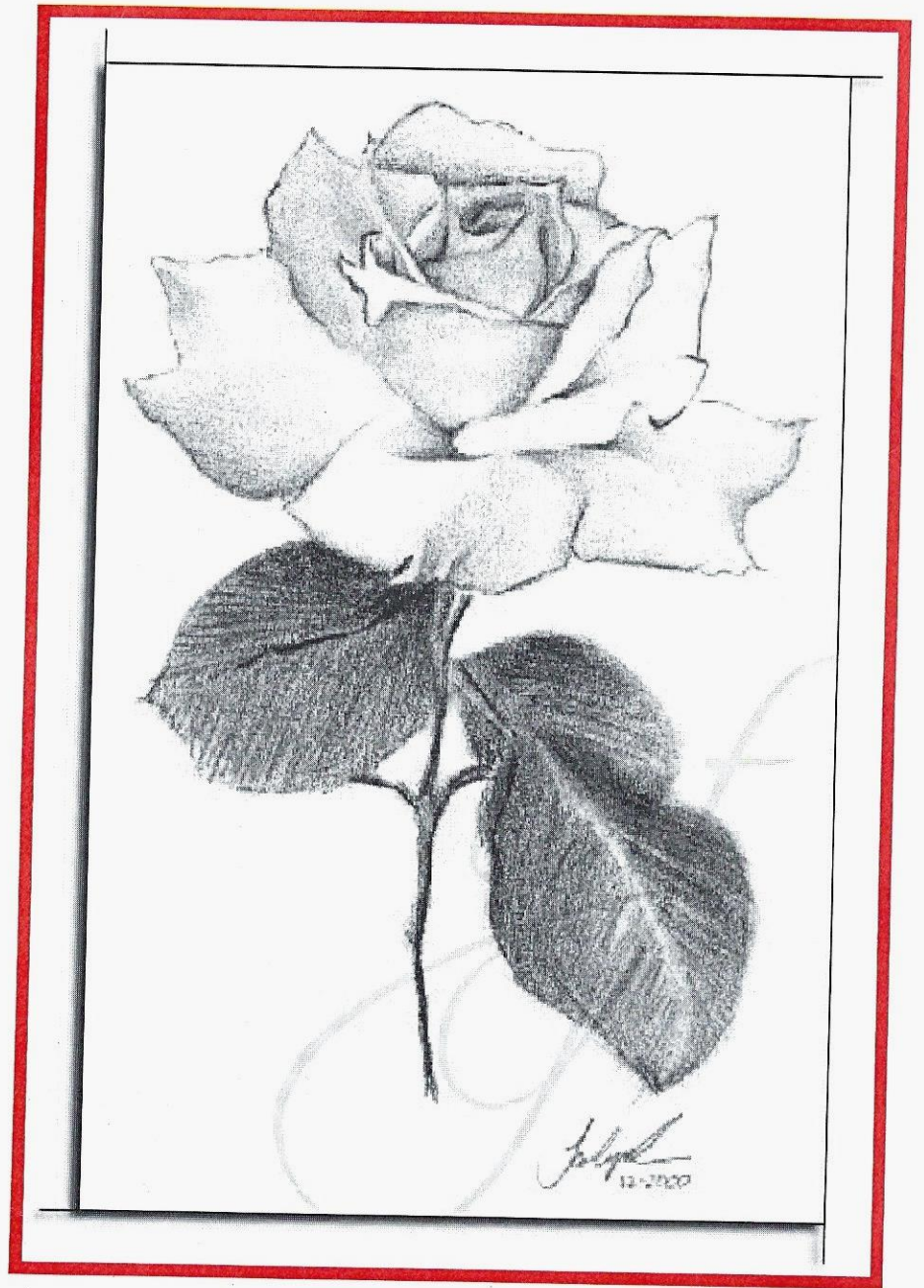
The word "advent" is derived from the Latin word "Adventus" meaning "the coming." Advent begins the Christian church year, commemorates the coming of the Messiah, is celebrated for 28 days beginning on the Sunday closest to November 30 and for the following three Sundays until Christmas. The color blue, symbol of hope, is appropriately used during the season of Advent.

The central image of the banner is a blazing sun set within a white circle. The sun is an appropriate Advent symbol in light of the prophecy of *Malachi 4:2*: "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings." The Greek IHC monogram for the name of Jesus is set within a circle of gold, the color symbolic of wealth, splendor and kingliness thus referencing the kingly office of Jesus. The number eight is often associated with new beginnings; the eight radiating flames represent the new beginning that is ours with the birth of Jesus. The white circle, symbol of eternity references the

eternal presence of Jesus, *John 1:1*: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

The symbol of light surrounded in part by darkness visually interprets Christ's coming according to *John 1:4, 5*: "...the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness...." The theme of light continues in the banner's lower design with four Advent candles. The lighting of the Advent candles not only signifies the progression of time in preparation for the promised arrival and birth of Jesus, but also the spreading of light, even the Good News of Jesus, the Light of the world into its darkest corners. The three crosses of Calvary foreshadow Christ's death and resurrection, thus completing His work of redemption for which He came.





ADVENT BANNERS

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## THE CHRISTMAS ROSE BANNER

The central image of the Advent banner is that of a flowering plant; its blossom in the form a rose (Song of Solomon 2:1: “I Am the rose of Sharon...”) has at its center the second century old Greek **XI**, monogram for Jesus Christ. The image inspired by the words of Isaiah 11:1: (“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”) and the German hymn with the same message, Es ist ein Rosensprungen, visually depicts the Messianic prophecy of Christ coming.

In addition to the central flower image, are elements and symbols related to the significance of Christ’s coming—His work of redemption. The Bethlehem star (**His Birth**) with eight golden rays (the number eight is often associated with new beginnings) represents the new life that is ours in Christ. The cross (**His Death**) symbolizes the saving work of the prophesied Messiah. The white circle (the circle without beginning or end is a symbol of eternity and the fullness of time) references the eternal presence of Jesus in John 1:1: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,” and Christ’s coming in Galatians 4:4: “But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son....” Finally, the plant’s leaves form a butterfly (**His Resurrection**); the butterfly, non-biblical image, was understood in pre-Christian times as a symbol for the soul as it related to the three stages of the insect’s life—caterpillar (life), cocoon (death), mature butterfly (resurrection.) Christians adopted the symbol to depict not only Christ’s death and resurrection, but also that of all believers in Christ.