

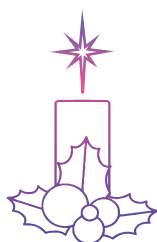
Children's Moment



As scientists continue to explore deeper into space, they are discovering more about the mysteries of black holes. At first, black holes may seem like the bullies of the universe—their gravitational force is so strong it pulls in whatever is in its path. But scientists have learned that black holes also help the universe stay balanced. Black holes don't just take things in—their powerful force spreads energy out from the heat made in the material spinning around it. Black holes even help galaxies grow and may have lit up the universe from the very beginning.

Peace can be like that as well. It's not about being quiet or gentle—it's about having a strong center that helps everything around it stay in balance. Real peace doesn't ignore the truth of a conflict because it is messy, inconvenient, or painful—it brings the truth in. Bringing in our honesty and responsibility for what we've done is where the work of peace begins. Then, through forgiveness and change, we can return to our relationships with the bright light of grace.

This Advent season, how might we think about the conflicts, fights, or disagreements in our lives? Is there something pulling you in or pushing you away that you'd like to bring to God? How could the promise of grace and belonging help give you a strong center and the courage to face whatever lies ahead?



*"...WHEN THEY SAW THE **STAR**, THEY WERE FILLED WITH **JOY**..."*

MATTHEW 2:10