

December 2018

From the Pastor



Waiting for Jesus

Sunday, December 2 is the start of Advent this year. It's a time in the church calendar where we look to the coming of the Messiah. First, we remember those who waited for the deliverance from sin as Adam and Eve were kicked out of Eden because of their sin. Their sin brought evil into the world. As they were leaving, God promised them a deliverer who would conquer Satan, the tempter who tempted Eve and is the author of all that is evil. The promise is recorded in the book of Genesis:

Genesis 3:15 *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." (ESV)*

Mankind waited for thousands of years until Jesus came and conquered sin on the cross. Christmas is all about Jesus coming to earth. During Advent we wait for Christmas and remember those who waited for Jesus.

Advent is also a time when we remember that we too are waiting for Messiah. Jesus will return, and when He does, He will judge the world. He will bring the judgment of God on all who are sinners. The book of Revelation is one place where we are told of what it will be like when Jesus returns.

Revelation 20:11-12 ¹¹
Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹²



And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. (ESV)

As we wait for Christmas, we remember that Jesus is coming again. The Advent Wreath is a great way for us to remember what Advent is about.

The Advent Wreath has four candles for the four Sundays before Christmas. The first candle, which is purple, is called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. The second candle, also purple, is the "Bethlehem Candle" is a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The third candle is pink and is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. It is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus. The fourth candle, which is also purple, is the "Angel's Candle." It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Each day of Advent you can have a nice devotional with your family. The "instructions" on how to use the Advent Wreath are listed on the back. My hope is that you and your family truly enjoy this season and remember that Jesus came and is coming back.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Advent Wreath Devotionals

The Advent season begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas and runs through Christmas Eve.

Each day in Advent, often at the main meal, the candles are lit: one candle is lit the first week, two the second, three the third (pink), and all four are lit during the last week, through Christmas Eve.

Each lighting is accompanied by a scripture reading and prayer.

Week 1

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Passage</u>
Sunday, December 02, 2018	The Birth of Life	Genesis 1:24-28
Monday, December 03, 2018	Adam and Eve	Genesis 3: 1-24
Tuesday, December 04, 2018	Noah	Genesis 6: 11-22; 8:6-12
Wednesday, December 05, 2018	Abraham	Genesis 12:1-7; 13:2-18
Thursday, December 06, 2018	Isaac	Genesis 22: 1-14
Friday, December 07, 2018	Jacob's Ladder	Genesis 27:41; 28:22
Saturday, December 08, 2018	Isaiah's Prophecy	Isaiah 9:2-7

Week 2

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Passage</u>
Sunday, December 09, 2018	Joseph's Coat	Genesis 37:1-36
Monday, December 10, 2018	Moses and the Law	Exodus 20: 1-17
Tuesday, December 11, 2018	Aaron's Blessing	Numbers 6:22-27
Wednesday, December 12, 2018	Samuel	1 Samuel 3:1-21
Thursday, December 13, 2018	David	1 Samuel .16:14-23
Friday, December 14, 2018	The Shepherd's Staff	Psalms 23
Saturday, December 15, 2018	Solomon	1 Kings 3:28

Week 3

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Passage</u>
Sunday, December 16, 2018	Elijah	1 Kings 17:1-16
Monday, December 17, 2018	Elisha	2 Kings 5:1-27
Tuesday, December 18, 2018	Isaiah	Isaiah 6:1 -8
Wednesday, December 19, 2018	Jeremiah	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Thursday, December 20, 2018	Nehemiah	Nehemiah 13:10-22
Friday, December 21, 2018	Angels	Hebrews 1:1-14
Saturday, December 22, 2018	Zechariah & Elizabeth	Luke 1:5-25

Week 4

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Passage</u>
Sunday, December 23, 2018	Star of Bethlehem	Matthew 2:1 -12
Monday, December 24, 2018	Birth of Christ	Luke 2:1-20
Tuesday, December 25, 2018	Chi Rho	John 1:1 -18