



Greetings, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we begin the season of Advent, I find myself pausing to think about the meaning of this special time in the church year. I usually look toward the season with some anxiety that comes from a desire to create meaningful experiences in worship and weekly activities as we share the same treasured story year after year.

But this year feels different. This year, all being well, we will be able to worship together, in person, throughout the season, and we will have the opportunity to enjoy Christmas Eve together in the sanctuary. I think the absence of a Christmas Eve service last year has given me more than enough incentive to help us all enjoy Advent and Christmas with fresh eyes. The season plans itself, and this year it seems brighter. It is outlined in the candles we light each week – Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. This year, for me, Advent doesn't feel as much like a season of busy planning and preparation as it feels like a season of continuous worship.

Things are certainly different, but one thing remains consistent and true: the story. Although our traditions have been altered by the pandemic, we will once again rejoice with the angels and kneel alongside shepherds at the manger.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all.

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to worship and prayer throughout the season.

Worship

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| Nov. 28 | The Candle of Hope – Led by Session members with a video sermon from the Rev. Lynn Nichol |
| Dec 5 | The Candle of Peace and celebration of the Lord's Table |
| Dec 12 | The Candle of Joy with multi-generational worship leadership |
| Dec 19 | The Candle of Love/Christmas Sunday |
| Dec 16 | Memorial Tree of Lights Outdoor Service at 6:30 p.m. |
| Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Family Service at 7:00 p.m. |
| Dec 26 | The first Sunday after Christmas |

Reading and Prayer

Wednesdays, Dec 1, 8, 15, 22... 11:30 a.m. in person (Jack Burke Room), 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (please contact the church office to indicate which time you would like to attend)

I look forward to worshipping and praying with you as we remember the precious story that changed the world, and is still changing hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings,
Rev. Jenn

