



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden

From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

Advent Devotional 2020

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The word advent encompasses several meanings, such as anticipation, expectation, coming, longing, desire, waiting, hope of promises fulfilled. We will explore some of these themes in these advent devotionals.

“The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come. For these, it is enough to wait in humble fear until the Holy One himself comes down to us, God in the child in the manger. God comes” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Advent Sermon, December 2, 1928).

Scripture

God uses anticipation, expectation, waiting to create a longing for the fulfilling of His promises. The prophets were standing on tiptoe longing to see what God was going to do. May we gain some sense of their longing as we read what God gave them to say concerning His Messiah.

Amos 3:7-8

⁷ “For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.

⁸ The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?”

Hebrews 1:1

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets.

Isaiah 9:1-8

¹ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Song

Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus A Charles Wesley hymn

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Holy Father, sometimes we feel like children who have a hard time waiting for Christmas morning. We spend so much of our life waiting, waiting in line, waiting for packages, waiting for healing. Waiting is hard, we are impatient, we want what we want now. We don't want to have to wait like Abraham and Sarah, or Job. We are like your children in the wilderness, groaning, murmuring. Yet, you have always made your people wait. Your Old Testament covenant people waited 2000 years for the coming of the promised Messiah. And now we, your New Testament covenant people, have been waiting 2000 for the second coming of Jesus. Waiting is obviously one of the most important parts of your work of redemption and sanctification. It disciplines us, it breaks our pride and humbles us, it reminds us who is in control, it reminds us you are faithful.

So, Father, in this advent season teach us anew to wait and to learn to wait well. Teach us from the prophets how to wait expectantly, yet not impatiently. Help us to wait in a way that ways we trust you, like a child waiting on his father. But also hear our prayer when we say "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly." In His name we pray, Amen.