



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. Today's devotional looks at the Advent promises made in Jeremiah 33.

Scripture

Jeremiah 33:14-26

¹⁴ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

¹⁷ "For thus says the Lord: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸ and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever."

¹⁹ The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: ²⁰ "Thus says the Lord: If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night will not come at their appointed time, ²¹ then also my covenant with David my servant may be broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and my covenant with the Levitical priests my ministers. ²² As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring of David my servant, and the Levitical priests who minister to me."

²³ The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: ²⁴ "Have you not observed that these people are saying, 'The Lord has rejected the two clans that he chose'? Thus they have despised my people so that they are no longer a nation in their sight. ²⁵ Thus says the Lord: If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the fixed order of heaven and earth, ²⁶ then I will reject the offspring of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his offspring to rule over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them."

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.]

The Days are Coming, Said the Lord

(to tune of "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear")
(new advent hymn based on Jeremiah 33:14-16)

"The days are coming," said the Lord to people beaten down,
"The days are coming in this world when justice will abound.
My people, you will sing and dance, and hope will blossom forth,
For I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up on the earth."

O God, you sent the prophets here to people long oppressed;
You told your children, filled with fear, that one day they'd be blessed.
You said to cities lost, destroyed by violence, sin or war,
That they would soon receive the joy that they were longing for.

You promised justice in the land to those who were enslaved;
You said that one day, by your hand, your cities would be saved.
As sure as dawn would turn to day and as the sun would set,
Your children there could trust your way; you were not finished yet.

The days are coming, loving Lord, to sing of Jesus' birth;
Yet cries for justice still are heard throughout this sinful earth.
In Advent, may we work and wait, do justice, share and pray,
And so prepare to celebrate your joyful, coming day.

("The Days are Coming, Said the Lord", text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2012), CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

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, you are the covenant making and covenant keeping God. A mother can no more forget her daughter and a father can no more forget his son, and the sun can no more forget to rise, than you can forget your covenant that you made with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David. Your Word cannot return void, your will cannot fail, what you promise cannot be forgotten. We can rest assured and have absolute hope and confidence that you will do all you have said you will do.

We are blessed to live in a time when we can look back and see and celebrate all your fulfilled promises. You are not like the men of earth, who forget or fail or let us down or don't follow through. You are not like us in our fickleness.

In this season we thank you especially for sending your Son, the righteous Branch of David, to dwell among us, to save us, to sit on David's throne forever as King of kings and Lord of lords. Thank you that He has come to execute justice and righteousness on earth, that He will take care of all vengeance, He will right every wrong, He will save all who belong to Him.

Open our blind eyes and cold hearts to see the riches of your promises for us today and how you enter into our hearts to be Lord and King. Take up your rule in our hearts and lives. Your word say, "the heart of a king is like a stream of water in your hand turning it wherever you will."

Then do that in our lives, in our homes, families, church and nation, for your glory. And prepare the hearts of your people for the return of Christ to set up His kingdom and bring to faith all you have chosen from before the foundations of the earth. For your glory in the name of Jesus, Amen.