

Sermon Notes

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The First Sunday in Advent: The Promise

Today we begin the season of *Advent*. The Latin word means “coming”, so each Sunday as we gather for worship, we will light one of four candles in the Advent wreath, each representing a different aspect of the coming of Jesus into our world. The final candle in the center, the Christ candle, will be lit on the evening of our Christmas Eve service.

This week we light the Prophecy candle. As we do, we think about the Scriptural promises that spoke of the coming Christ. When you really think about it, it is a stunning reality that God would plan and promise such a rescue for rebellious sinners. Paul David Trip writes, “Sadly, many of us aren’t gripped by the stunningly magnificent events and truths of the birth of Jesus anymore. Sadly, many of us are no longer gripped by wonder as we consider what this story tells us about the character and plan of God. Sadly, many of us are no longer humbled by what the incarnation of Jesus tells us about ourselves. Our eyes have gone lazy and our hearts have grown cold.” (Come, Let Us Adore Him p.11)

We are praying that as we think about the prophetic promises of God, as we focus on the place where Jesus was born, as we stand with the humble shepherds and as we hear again the message of the angels, we will be amazed - not just at the Christmas story – but at the whole redemptive story of God that gave us the Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

He Came as Promised

He Was Who Was Promised

He Will Come Again as Promised

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Weekly Discipleship Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

How did this week's message direct your focus towards Jesus in this Christmas season?

How do you plan to keep your focus on Jesus as we approach Christmas?

What are some tangible ways you can reach out and bless your neighbors in the coming weeks as we approach the Christmas season?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

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Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship
Katie Austin: Children's Ministry
Coordinator

Contact Us

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www.westwoodfamily.org

Upcoming Events

Dec 1 - Christmas Decorating
Dec 7 - Helping Hands Day
Dec 11 - Church Conference
Dec 15 - Children's Christmas Program
Dec 21 - Adult Choir Christmas Cantata
Dec 22 - 10am Worship Service Only
Dec 24 - Candlelight & Communion Service
Dec 29 - 10am Worship Service Only

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