



And God Entered the Picture

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord." (Lk. 2:8-11 CEB).

I can only imagine what it was like the night of the birth. Angels were working in the fields. They did what they had done for years. Many went about the usual business of their ancestors. Everything should be routine and uneventful.

As the shepherds settled into their mundane tasks, a celestial band of angels appeared before them. Something happened. The colors, the lights, the music, all the sights, and sounds proved overwhelming. It all was magnificent, as words could never describe it. The proclamation from above to those below all told of the one who fulfilled a promise to offer peace to a troubled world. God in the flesh came to us! We are told that the shepherds followed the angels' instructions and visited the Holy family.

This revelation still occurs in the world today. Somehow, we encounter God and follow Him into a relationship that includes more than we can ever realize. We continue down the path, with Divine help, to find that which is sacred and divine. Once we have this encounter with God, nothing is ever the same.

May this Christmas lead you to that which calls you to the sacred. Enter the holy space without fear and embrace the reality that you are loved by the Holiest of All Creation. May your manger experience be one that transforms you and redeems you. Experience the form of God within us and through us. Your life will never be the same.

Merry Christmas and God's Blessings Be with You and Yours,

Pastor Joe



December 01 Maryn Terry, Brody White, Caeleb MacDonald
 December 08 Alec Actkinson, Zeke Kasel, Elizabeth Mahaney
 December 15 Katy Mahaney, Cooper Nichols, Maryn Terry
 December 22 Madison Osborn, Rory Pomper, Lane Terry
 December 29 Charley Oborny, Brody White, Caeleb MacDonald

HEAD USHER Charles Christian



December 1 Glen & Freda Neie
 December 8 Logan & Ashley Nichols
 December 15 Rob & Rebecca Pomper
 December 22 Jarod & McKenzie Hettinga
 December 29 Joyce Ketcherside

Sunday December 8th 6:00 MST Wesley Foundation
 ENMU Christmas Party Hamlin Memorial will host a
 Christmas party for the ENMU Wesley Foundation.
 ENMU Portales, NM



Monday December 16th 12:30 cst.
 We will be serving a meal at the
 Lighthouse Mission In Clovis, Nm .
 Please plan to be a part of showing
 Christ love as we serve.
 Diane Atkinson 806/946-7041

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SUNDAY DECEMBER 15. 11:00 am
MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!



BIRTHDAYS

December 8 McKenzie Hettinga
December 9 Freda Neie
December 15 Maycee Ware
December 18 Charles Christian
December 19 Belva Bowers
December 25 Braelynn Windham
December 26 Alec Actkinson
December 28 Dalton Kasel
December 29 Tim Foote
December 29 Theresa McLeod
December 30 Jeff Actkinson



December 19 Joe and Cazandra MacDonald
 December 28 Harry and Mina Sheets



The Snack Pak program has been able to provide food on the week-ends for children in Farwell and Texico for the past few years we have provide boxes of food to the families who receive Snack Paks, to help the children have food throughout the Christmas break. We welcome donations of canned goods or monetary ones.

Thank you as always for being a church who is so giving. Please contact Ashley Nichols, Robbi Actkinson or McKenzie Hettinga with any questions.



- 1 2 Cor. 11-13
- 2 Galatians 1-3
- 3 Galatians 4-6
- 4 Ephesians 1-4
- 5 Eph 5-6 Philippians 1
- 6 Philippians 2-4
- 7 Colossians 1-3
- 8 Col. 4 1 Thessalonians 1-3
- 9 1 Thess. 4-5 2 Thess. 1
- 10 Thess. 2-3 1 Timothy 1
- 11 1 Timothy 2-4
- 12 1 Timothy 5-6 2 Timothy 1-2
- 13 2 Timothy 3-4 Titus 1-2
- 14 Titus 2-3 Philemon 1
- 15 Hebrews 1-3
- 16 Hebrews 4-7
- 17 Hebrews 8-10
- 18 Hebrews 11-13
- 19 James 1-3
- 20 Mas. 4-5 1 Peter 1-2
- 21 1 Peter 3-5 2 Peter 1
- 22 2 Pet 2-3 1 John 1
- 23 1 John 2-5
- 24 2 John 1 3 John 1 Jude 1
- 25 Revelation 1-3
- 26 Revelation 4-6
- 27 Revelation 7-10
- 28 Revelation 11-13
- 29 Revelation 14-16
- 30 Revelation 17-19
- 31 Revelation 20-22

The Story of Advent

The season of Advent has been with us since the fourth century, although it has not been a part of the liturgical observance of all denominations and churches. With the mixing of Christmas and Advent during the weeks leading up to Christmas Day, there is often confusion of the two. Here are the basics of Advent:

When— Advent marks the beginning of the church year. It begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends Christmas Eve. If Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, Advent will last four full weeks. If Christmas Day falls on any other day of the week, Advent will last less than four weeks. If Christmas falls on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, all of Advent will be in December. If Christmas falls on any other day of the week, Advent will begin in November.

What— Advent comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning "coming." It is a season to prepare for the coming of Christ in various meanings: the promised coming of the Messiah to the Jews, the coming of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, the promised return of the risen Christ in final victory, and the continual coming of Christ into the lives and hearts of believers.

Liturgical Context— Advent, which marks the beginning of the liturgical year, is part of the cycle of seasons that includes Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, all related in some fashion to the coming of Jesus. That cycle is followed by Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and the long Pentecost season.

History— Advent began in France in the fourth century. In various times and locations of the church, Advent has been observed for three, four, and six weeks leading to Christmas. Some churches today are experimenting with incorporating Advent themes and symbols in worship during the weeks prior to the actual start of Advent in the hope that they can avoid the conflict of Advent versus Christmas observance during the immediate weeks prior to Christmas. (See "A Modest Proposal for Advent/Christmas Peace.")

Color— The color for Advent has traditionally been purple. Some churches have adopted blue for Advent. In practice, however, as churches increasingly incorporate the symbols and decorations of Christmas during Advent, more and more we see red, green, and gold appearing. The United Methodist Book of Worship upholds the traditional color of purple for Advent, signifying penitence and royalty; but it also allows blue, the color of hope.

Themes, Images, Symbols, and Practices— There are a number of historic and traditional themes observed during Advent: Preparing to celebrate the coming of Christ: A time of penitence and fasting, austerity, seriousness, reading of Scripture, hearing and proclaiming the Word in sermon and song; waiting and longing for the Messiah's coming.

Symbols— Chrismon tree with its white monograms, the Jesse tree, Advent calendars, trumpets (for Isaiah), the messianic rose, star of Jacob, and fleur-de-lis. Modern innovation includes the use of an Advent wreath with four candles and themes around hope-peace-love-joy, John-Elizabeth-Joseph-Mary, or some other pattern.

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December is Hamlin Memorial UMC Month for Meals on Wheels.

Please see Bonnie Howard 806/481-9023



We have a website! Visit www.hamlinmemorialumc.org. It is a work in progress, so please be patient. If you have any pictures to contribute please send

