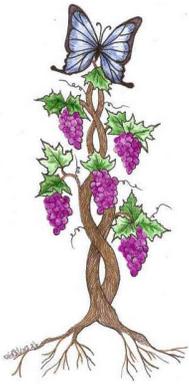


*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*



December 2, 2018

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36



Waiting and Watching
Object: Advent Wreath

It's official! We have entered into the Christmas countdown period. Every day now we will see it in the newspapers and hear it on the radio and television, "24 shopping days until Christmas," "23 shopping days until Christmas," "22 shopping days until Christmas." All around us there are signs that Christmas is coming. What are some of those signs?

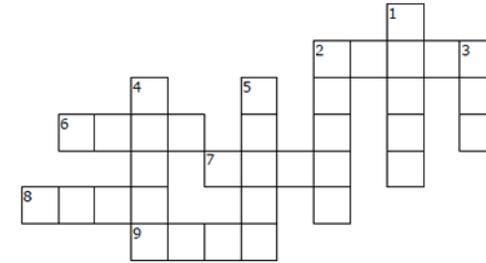
We see Christmas decorations in the stores and on houses, we hear Christmas songs on the radio, we see ads on television and in the newspapers. What if we didn't have all of these things to remind us that Christmas is coming? How would we know? I guess we would just have to look at the calendar.

Two thousand years ago, there was no television or radio. There were no newspaper ads announcing that a child would be born and that he would be the Savior of the world. When Jesus was born, very few people even knew about it, but it was an event which God had promised and which had been foretold by prophets many years before. Many people had been looking forward to the coming of the Messiah, they just didn't know exactly when he was coming.

This Sunday marks the beginning of a very special season called Advent. Do you know what Advent means? The dictionary says that advent is "the coming of something very important." What is it? Is it Christmas? Yes, we are looking forward to that, but we are also looking forward to the coming of another very important event. The return of Jesus! Today, we light the candle of hope on our advent wreath. Just as the people of Israel found hope in the promises of God, we find hope in Jesus' promise that he will come again. We don't know exactly when he will come, it isn't marked on the calendar, but we are watching and waiting.

God of hope, we thank you for keeping your promise to send a Savior and for this special time of year. Help us to remember that Jesus is the reason that we celebrate, and help us to share your love with the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. Twinkling points of light in the sky at night
6. To make a request to God
7. The large heavenly body visible in the night sky
8. To raise from a lower to a higher position
9. The part of the body containing the brain, eyes, ears, nose, mouth

DOWN

1. To observe very carefully
2. To rise to an upright position on your feet
3. The earth's source of heat and light
4. The planet on which we live
5. Large, white, fluffy things floating in the sky

PRAY	STARS	EARTH	STAND	MOON
WATCH	CLOUD	LIFT	HEAD	SUN

Activity: Activity: Search the internet for ways to make an Advent wreath for your family. It could be something as simple as a green paper plate, 4 small battery-operated candles and 1 larger white battery-operated candle in the middle. Light one new candle each week leading up to Christmas and say devotions each night at dinner or bed time.

Discussion Question: Advent is a time for waiting. Is it hard or easy for you to wait? Name some other times you have to wait.

Family Table Prayer for December: Round this table, here to pray. First we thank you for the day. For our family and our friends, gifts of grace that heaven lends. Living water, daily bread, countless blessings our God sends. Thank you, Jesus, for them all, for the great ones and the small. Amen.

December Memory Verse: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Christ is Coming

