



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

December 1, 2019

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

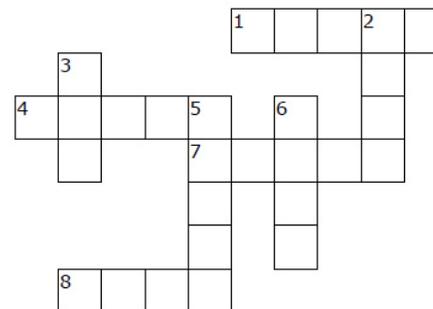


First Sunday of Advent

Good morning everyone! Did you notice something different in our sanctuary today? (point to the Advent wreath and paraments) Yes! Just like last week, we have a different color, blue! In our church year, that can only mean one thing...it's the season of Advent! Four weeks' time before Christmas just like we have four candles in our wreath. It is time of preparation for the birth of Jesus; it's not Christmas yet; we have wait!

Waiting is hard isn't it? Help me to finish this sentence. I can hardly wait for _____. (allow for answers) We wait for the bus, for dinner, for school break, for our birthdays. Our Gospel lesson today talks about waiting for Jesus. Jesus promises us after he dies that he is going to be with God in heaven but that he will be back to bring us with him one day. We are to keep awake, to always be on the lookout. We don't know when that day will happen, we just trust Jesus' promise that it will. In the meantime, we are to prepare our hearts for Christ to come. We can do that by being like one of our Advent candles, by shining our light in the world, bright with Jesus' love in our heart for all to see.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- The time of day when it is dark
- To keep an eye on; to guard
- The person who has something such as property
- A particular moment in the day, such as eight o'clock

DOWN

- A period of sixty minutes
- A period of 24 hours
- The place where a person or family lives
- To have information about something; to be aware of something

TIME	OWNER	WATCH	HOUR
KNOW	HOUSE	DAY	NIGHT

Activity: Make a family Advent wreath. Using green construction paper, cut out a circle and decorate it with red berries and maybe some stars on the outer edge. Draw and cut out four large candles, one for each week of Advent; paste them on to the wreath. On the candles, draw a flame, but only color the flame that is to be lit for the week. During family devotions, pray for God to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. "Loving God, help us to shine bring in the world as your prepare our hearts to be a manger for the baby Jesus. Amen"

Discussion Question: How can our hearts be a manger for Jesus? What would our hearts need to be filled with and how can we be a light in the world?

Family Table Prayer for December:

God of love, joy, and light
we thank you for your son.
For Mary, and her baby boy,
Our savior, and all that he has done. Amen.

December Memory Verse: Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"



Color the picture of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Then, beginning December 1st, color one star each