

Rediscover Christmas

Part 1: Worship Fully—Isaiah 9:2-7

Introduction:

The four weeks leading up to Christmas are known as Advent in the Christian calendar. This is a Latin word that means arrival. If we look closely enough, what we find in Advent is the prescription for all the things about the holidays we dread. You're distracted, busy, and worn out and it won't get better until January. Unless you slow down, clear the clutter, and worship fully.

Discussion Questions:

1. What part of the holiday season do you wish you could lay down this year? What would it look like to have a slower, simpler Christmas this year?
2. Talk about the tradition of Advent. What is the meaning behind it? What has your personal experience with Advent been like?
3. Read Luke 1:26-33. What would it have meant to receive this news in Mary's cultural context? What were the threats? What was Mary's response?
4. Mary's posture is one of openness, surrender, and obedience. How do these descriptors play into the idea of worship? Can you worship God without these things? Why or why not?
5. Brandon likens preparing your house for dinner guests with preparing your heart for Christ's arrival. How can we begin to "clean house" in expectation of Jesus' advent?
6. Read Isaiah 7:14. What is the importance of the name Emmanuel? How does this name describe the essence of what this holy season should be about?
7. What clutter do you need to clean out of your schedule or your heart to make way for Jesus this season? How can you commit to worshipping fully this Christmas?

Scripture:

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. (Luke 1:46-49).

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Financially Savvy Persons Needed

The nominating Committee is currently engaged in filling openings on the Stewardship and Finance committee. We are soliciting conversations with anyone who is feeling the prompting of the Holy Spirit to utilize their skills, gifting, and talents in financial abilities and understanding. If working with budgets, organizing monthly balance sheets, developing investment opportunities, and partnering with others in the many faceted aspects of the financial needs of an organization are skills that excite and empower you, then this might be a worthwhile conversation for us to have.

This is an open call to join in a discussion and explore what you may be learning about serving and seeking the purposes of God's call upon your life. It would be helpful if you would contact the nominating committee clerk, Barb Lochner, before November 30th at her cell number 260-760-9510 to schedule a time to meet and talk through the roles we are seeking to fill.



Do all your holiday shopping with gift cards that give back. Make your gift card orders today with **Scrip** at the **Scrip Table** located at the Mission Station. Give your friends and family the gifts they want, while giving to the Mission Committee the support it needs. You earn with every gift card purchased. Shop early this season to ensure you get your gift cards ahead of time.



OPERATION REACH OUT

Want to put a smile on some faces this Christmas? Operation Reach Out is doing Christmas Cards for Wabash County Nursing home residents. Please place your completed, non-addressed and non-stamped, cards in the box by December 17th.

Josiah White's Giving Tree for Foster Care



We still have two tags on our giving tree. Please consider taking a tag to help Wabash's foster children this holiday season. There are tags for specific children, as well as tags for \$25 Walmart gift cards for emergency needs that occur all throughout the year, such as a midnight need of a crib or toddler mattress, car seat or special formula. Please have gifts returned to the church office by 12/03 at 4 PM. Please feel free to contact the church office with any questions. Thank you!

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