



Whom You Have Sent

ADVENT MMXX

Cross and Crown Family,

As we begin our 2020 Advent celebration, I am looking forward to being immersed in the memories, significance and fun of the season. From the directed focus and reflection on Christ to the Christmas cookies, carols and nog, I can't wait to feel the common comforts and feelings that this season evokes. This year during our Advent services we will reflect on: Hope, Love, Faith and Sharing. Each week we will linger on one of these themes and remember how they are fulfilled in Jesus. We will be reminded once again that we expectantly wait for a King; King Jesus who has come, and who will come again! Come Lord Jesus, COME!

This year has been overwhelmingly hard and lonely for many of us. Who could have imagined that we would not meet as a collective body for nine months? It makes my heart ache to hear stories of people who have had to endure sickness, loneliness and nationwide riots, in isolation. We have needed Christian community and yet, for one reason or another, it hasn't been a reality for many. As I've searched for answers to this year's challenges, I've clung to the truth of who Jesus is and the eternal life we have in him. He is our only hope and anchor. The light of the Gospel is a beacon of light through this confusing, dark and challenging year.

Collectively, it has caused us to re-examine what is truly important and how we should live our lives in an ever-changing world that doesn't recognize Jesus as King. In this season of Advent, I pray that our hearts will once again be turned to Jesus. I hope you will take the time to slow down and reflect on what the apostle John wrote, "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent... these things I speak in the world, that they may have my JOY fulfilled in themselves." [John 17:3+13] What comforting promises to cling to! As we know Him, the joy of Jesus Christ will be fulfilled in each of us.

Cross and Crown family, we love you and we are praying that you will look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, in whom you have eternal life.

Love, Pastor Matthias

HOPE

Our hope is fulfilled in Jesus.

LOVE

God loves the world so much that He gave us His Son.

FAITH

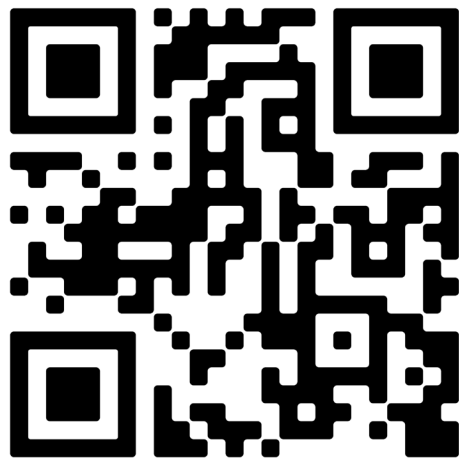
Whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists.

SHARING

The Holy Spirit leads us to share the Good News of Jesus.



Week 1



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Reading Plan

November 29 · Genesis 1:26-31

November 30 · Genesis 3:1-24

December 1 · Genesis 3:15

December 2 · Deuteronomy 18:15-19

December 3 · Isaiah 2:2-5

December 4 · Isaiah 9:2-7

December 5 · Isaiah 7:10-14

H

The first week of advent we celebrate that our hope is in Jesus and the promise of His second coming. Hope is an expectation of what is sure or certain. Our hope is fixed on Jesus; our sure and certain Savior.

O

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3

P

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” Titus 2:11-14

E

O Holy Night

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knee, O hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night, O night Divine

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy name

Christ is the Lord, O praise His Name forever
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim



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