

Saturday, December 10th, Day 14 – Chad Higgins

(Welcome)

Hello, and welcome to Vespers for the Advent season. My name is Chad Higgins, and today is the 14th and final day of week 2 of Advent, Saturday, December 10th.

(Centering)

As we begin our time of reflection and devotion, let's take a moment to center ourselves.

Make sure other distractions are quieted for the next few minutes.

If possible, bring your body to complete rest.

As you become aware of the stillness around you, focus on your breathing as we inhale and exhale slowly together.

Breathe in, exhale.

Breathe in, exhale.

Breathe in, exhale.

(Responsive Prayer)

As we continue in prayer together, speak the words of this responsive prayer.

LEADER – God of love

RESPONSE – May this season remind us of your steadfastness

LEADER – Christ of hope

RESPONSE – May this season remind us of your promises

LEADER – Spirit of peace

RESPONSE – May this season remind us of your comfort

LEADER – As it was from the beginning,

RESPONSE – So now, may the joy of this season burn in our hearts

TOGETHER – Amen

(Lectio Divina)

For the next few moments, let's dwell in God's Word.

Our reading today comes from the Gospel of John, Chapter 3.

I will read the passage through 3 times - each time with a different way for you to experience the scripture.

(1st Reading)

Hear the Word of God

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

18 Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.

21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

(After 1st Reading Prompt)

As we read through the 2nd time, take notice of what word or phrase stands out to you and hold onto it. If you would like to write your reflections down or tell someone else your findings, feel free to pause the video after this 2nd reading.

Passage Repeated

(After 2nd Reading Prompt)

If a word or phrase caught your attention, what, if anything, do you sense God saying to you about the LOVE that Advent brings? Listen for that invitation during this final reading. If you would like to write your reflections down or tell someone else your findings, feel free to pause the video after this 3rd reading.

Passage repeated

(After 3rd Reading Prompt)

As we conclude this time of reading together, let me offer these questions as a challenge to be aware of as you go about your Advent season:

Why is this the most well-known passage in the Bible?

How does the LOVE of Advent display it as authentic?

(Benediction) Thank you for spending time with us today. As you continue this week, may the LOVE of the Advent resound in every part of your life. If you will, speak these words with me as we conclude:

ALL – Lord of hosts,
 Who breathed the words of creation and
 spoke the Word of the Incarnation
Ignite our imaginations
Fill us with awe and wonder
Prepare the way for the Messiah, within and without
For unto us, a Child is born
Unto us, Emmanuel is given
Bring us Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace
As we receive, once again, Your greatest gift to the world
Amen, and amen

(Conclusion)

Join us every day of Advent for a time of reflection and devotion.
May God go with you through this season of LOVE.
Blessings, dearly beloved.