

Make Room-1
“Make Room For Jesus”
Isaiah 7:14; 9:2;6-7 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first time guests and those worshipping with us online! Can you believe it's the first Sunday in December already?

Now show of hands... Who already has their Christmas tree up? You guys are good!

Who had their tree and decorations up the day after Thanksgiving? Okay you guys have probably already been listening to Michael Buble', and Maria Carrey (don't lie)

You've probably already watched "Elf" like five times...and already have all of your Christmas shopping done...

You already have your ugly sweater picked out for the party...you already have your presents wrapped...and the rest of us who haven't even thought about any of this yet...we hate you!

Seriously...I actually thought about digging out our decorations...and I felt so overwhelmed because number one...

We just moved into our new apartment like four months ago...and I remember crawling up into the attic thinking...I'm going to have to move these boxes again very soon...So I've got to dig them out...

Number two...We really don't have a lot of room for the tree in our apartment...Now that you think about it...It's kind of crazy that we live in the largest city in America (Over 8 million people)

And during the Christmas season what do we do? We pack our already overcrowded apartments and houses with MORE stuff!

We've got to make room for the tree...
In order to do that you've got to move stuff out of the way...and put that stuff somewhere else...

I've got stuff on top of stuff...
And some of the stuff isn't even my stuff...
Some of it is my kids stuff...and they all moved out...

Most of it is my wife's stuff...but that's okay because I agreed that when we got married, my stuff was her stuff and her stuff was her stuff and she calls the shots on all the stuff in our home...

Now that I think about it all my original stuff is in the attic...hmmm anyway!

Today is the first Sunday of Advent...and we're kicking off a brand new series called "Make Room."

Now if you're not familiar with the tradition of Advent, the word Advent means "Coming."

The Advent season is about waiting and preparing for the arrival of Jesus. Of course Christmas morning is the day that we celebrate Jesus' birth...

But Advent is the weeks leading up to Christmas...it's all about the wonder and anticipation of God coming to us...to rescue us...to free us...to save us...It's all about the hope that we have...in Jesus!

It's been said that a person could live for 40 days without food...they can live for 3 days without water...8 minutes without air...but not a single second without hope...

When Jesus was born...hope came into the world!

In our text today, the Prophet Isaiah describes how hopeless God's people were over 700 years before the birth of Jesus...Isaiah prophesied...

2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.-Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)

Now God's people weren't in literal darkness...It was a spiritual darkness...a moral darkness...a religious darkness...an oppressive darkness In fact, it's the same Hebrew word found in Genesis 1:2

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.-Genesis 1:2 (NIV)

It was a hopeless time...a dark time...Their hearts were cluttered with anger, fear, doubt...

They felt abandoned by God...Their nation was in political turmoil...there was a famine in the land...foreign enemies were at the gate threatening to destroy their very existence...

But God was telling them that He hadn't abandoned them...He promised them that they were going to see a Great Light!

So they needed to be ready...they needed to get all of the clutter out of the way and make room...

This light wasn't going to be what they expected...but this light would come through the birth of a child...a child with extraordinary names...

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.-Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

Now we could spend a few weeks breaking down each of these names given to Jesus, but for sake of time, I want to look at another prophecy given by Isaiah that gives us some more details about the hope and light that was coming...

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you[c] a sign: The virgin[d] will conceive and give birth to a son, and[e] will call him Immanuel.-Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

Immanuel is a Hebrew Word that means “God with Us”...You can imagine how this brought hope to Israel...God was going to send the Messiah...

God Himself was going to be with them as they walked in this darkness! He would bring light, and life, and healing and salvation to them!

Suddenly, now they have a hope...

They have expectations...

There's light at the end of the tunnel...

The question is when? When God can we expect Your arrival?

We do the same thing...When you're going through it...you want God to intervene right now...(sometimes He does!) But if you've been walking with the Lord for any length of time, we know that God does everything according to His time table not ours...

“God has his own sense of timing: ‘With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day’ (2 Peter 3:8). He has perfect timing: never early, never late. God is never in a hurry, but he is always on time.”-Nicky Gumbel

So although God was promising the Messiah...It was going to be about 700 years before He arrived...Why? Because it wasn't the right time yet...

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship-Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV)

Notice those words? "When the set time had fully come" Now I know that it seems hard for us to wrap our brains around why God waited over 700 years to send Jesus...and it can seem cold to say "well it just wasn't time yet" but historians and theologians help give us some insight...

It was the right time spiritually. Just before Jesus was born there was a spiritual hunger...

The Jews had been anticipating, longing for, praying for their promised Messiah...By this time...people from other religions were converting to Judaism because of the hope that they had in a coming deliverer

It was the right time culturally. I learned this week in my study that for the first time since the Tower of Babel...the world was unified with a single language...the Greek language. You could go anywhere in the known world 2000 years ago and communicate in a common language

It was the right time politically. Rome ruled the world, and although they ruled in an oppressive way, they brought unity to the known world. They built 250,000 miles of road...now people could easily travel, and trade...

So think about this...By the time of Jesus' birth the gospel could be shared in one language...

It could easily spread through the known world in a time when people were so hungry for hope...It was God's perfect timing! .

Here's what I want you to see from these verses on this first Sunday of Advent...

God gave a **SIGN**

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you[c] a sign:

Although it was going to be a long time before God sends Jesus...He didn't leave them or abandon them, and He said He will give them a sign...

The word sign means a signal or a mark...In other words, God isn't going to keep you in the dark about this...He's going to give you a signal, a sign...let you know He's coming...

See, we have the privilege of having the full scriptures...we can connect the Old Testament signs and promises to the New Testament fulfilments...

In Matthew chapter 1, Matthew is explaining the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus...

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”[g] (which means “God with us”).-Matthew 1:22-23 (NIV)

God’s people in the Old Testament didn’t have that...so they had to trust and believe God...and with each sign their hope would grow...

God didn’t just use Isaiah...

Jeremiah gave a sign that Messiah would come from the line of David...

5 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for David[a] a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.-Jeremiah 23:5-6 (NIV)

Micah gave a sign that Messiah would be born in Bethlehem

2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans[b] of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”-Micah 5:2 (NIV)

Advant is a reminder that God is faithful to all of His promises...that He will do what He says He will do! God gave a sign...

God gave a **SON**

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you[c] a sign: The virgin[d] will conceive and give birth to a son, and[e] will call him Immanuel.-Isaiah 7:14

What an incredible sign...the virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son...No other person other than Jesus has been or will be born without a human father...

Human birth requires sperm from a man. That's just the way it is...that's the way God designed it...end of story...

The sign isn't that there will be another birth...The sign was that it will be a miraculous birth...the virgin will conceive and give birth to the Son...

By the way, the first hint of this is found in Genesis 3...After Satan deceived Adam & Eve and they sinned...

God said to the devil...the Seed of the woman will crush your head. You read that go, seed of the woman? The seed comes from a man. Yes but not this time...This is no ordinary birth...this is a virgin birth...That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit!

And He's not just an ordinary Son...

He's the Wonderful Counselor...

Counselor means "helper" someone who will walk with you through life...

Promises to never leave or forsake you...who will help carry your burdens...and show you where to go...

He's no ordinary son...

He's the Mighty God...He's not just another guy claiming to be somebody great...He is God come to us...

There's nothing that He can't do! He's above all things, His name is above all names...He created everything we see and everything we can't see!

He's the Everlasting Father...

He's unlike any other father that has ever walked this earth...He's perfect, He's good, He's loving...He's full of mercy and grace, He will never abandon or abuse His children...

He's the Prince of Peace...

His presence brings peace...

He will bring to us peace with God

So that we can experience the peace of God

Advent is all about making room for Him...

God gave a sign

God gave a Son

God gave a **SAVIOR**

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you[c] a sign: The virgin[d] will conceive and give birth to a son, and[e] will call him Immanuel.-Isaiah 7:14

As we come to a close today, I want to point out to you why this sign is such a big deal...What's the big deal about a virgin conceiving...

Simply put...if there is no virgin birth...there's no hope! Without the virgin birth, Jesus is just like everybody else...which means He can't be God...

If He's not God, then that means that He lied about being God...and If He lied about being God...then His claims about being our Savior are false as too...

Because the Bible tells us that the virgin born Son of God will come and die for sin and be resurrected from the grave.

But we believe that all of this is true!
Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world!
He is fully God...He is fully human...

As man, He's the perfect representative of us...
As God, He's the perfect sacrifice for us...
Think of it this way, on the cross, Jesus
stretched out His arms...

It's as if He took the hand of God the Father in
one hand, and our hand in the other...and He
brings them together through His sacrifice!

[Worship Team]

Okay so you may be thinking that's great...
God gave His people who lived a long time ago
some promises about how He was going to
deliver them...and they spent like 700 years
anticipating His arrival...and He finally came...I
get it...but what does this have to do with me
today?

What does that have to do with my situation?
Why do I have to make room for Jesus?

Well do you ever feel like your world is kind of dark? Do you have any uncertainty about the future? Do you have a darkness of fear about the safety of your loved ones?

Do you ever feel alone...or abandoned? Do you feel like God has forgotten you because of your past sins? If so...here's the glorious message of the advent season...A light has dawned into your darkness!

Jesus is still Immanuel...

God with us...

God with you...

As we ask the Holy Spirit to search our hearts this morning, are we willing to make room for Jesus?

You see, Advent is more than just anticipating the birth of Jesus...It's also about anticipating the return of Jesus...

Just like God gave specific signs pointing to His first coming...He's given us signs pointing to His second coming...And just like He made good on His promises concerning Jesus' birth...He's going to make good on His promises concerning Jesus' return

Think about the world we live in...

Think about God's time table...Knowing that God has a set time for His return...And we need to make room for Him...Be ready for Him!

Until that day...you still have time...

The Bible tells us that Jesus stands at the door of your heart and knocks...He's waiting for you to make some room for Him!

Altar Time

