

Pastor's Message—December 2018

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD...Isaiah 40:3

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Calvary Church. By the time you read this some decorating has begun, plans for the remainder of chores are being discussed and implemented and we will be ready to begin the season of Advent on Sunday, December 2.

In the life of the church Advent is the four weeks of preparation before Christmas Day. No, I don't mean preparing a menu for dinner, buying or wrapping gifts or baking cookies. Although all of those things are being done at different levels in different families and are important, that is not the meaning of Advent preparation. During the four weeks prior to Christmas we are to prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the celebration of Christ birth through prayer and repentance which we then follow with a time of anticipation, hope, and joy.

God prepared for Jesus to be shared with us. The book of Luke gives us the most detailed account of Jesus' birth, childhood and development, Luke lifts up the humanity of Jesus. Our Savior was the ideal human. Fully prepared, the ideal human was now ready to live the perfect life. Even God prepared the way for Jesus' birth through the genealogy which began with Abraham (Matthew 1).

Being prepared is a theme that runs throughout the entire Bible. God prepared the earth and everything in it to satisfy man's needs. Then in man's weakness sin was introduced and God prepared some very unlikely people to be His spokespersons and leaders to guide people out of their sinful natures. Let's not forget that God also prepared, through the birth of the Christ Child a way to leave those sinful lives behind and move into eternity.

I invite you to always be prepared in the Lord. On November 18 my sermon title was "God's Timing". We never know when God will call us to disciple another, or call us to pray for someone or something, or simply be with another. We also never know when we will be that person in need. None of us know when God will call us out of this world. As I stated in my sermon we never know when Jesus will return. What we do know is that it is up to us to prepare ourselves for what we don't know through study, prayer and faithfulness.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us also prepare ourselves so that we can bring glory, praise and honor to our Father who art in heaven. Merry Christmas to all. See you in church.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Lynn

Christmas Sermon Series : Calm & Bright; 200 Years of Silent Night

Dec 2—Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Dec 9—Glorious Stream

Dec 16—Redeeming Grace

Dec 23—Let Us Sing

Dec 24—Calm & Bright

Dec 30—Is Born

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