

Notes:

*Enter to Worship; Depart to Serve*

Sermon Text

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Subject

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Spiritual “To Do List”  
(things God has shown me today)

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Although the world is focused on the commercialization of Christmas, the Church is observing a time of preparation for the Coming of Christ. Without Advent, the season becomes one long profit-oriented celebration without any context for that celebration and with little contact with the reality of life that gave birth to the season in the first place.

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as the birth of Jesus approaches. The circular form of the wreath symbolizes eternity or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World who brought light and life to a dark world (John 1:4-5). We light a new candle on each of the four Sundays of Advent. As the light grows, so does our anticipation and joy. Three of the four weekly candles are purple, the traditional color of royalty. They represent hope, peace and love, respectively. For the third Sunday, we use a pink candle to symbolize joy. In the center of the wreath is a white candle (representing the purity of Jesus) — the Christ candle — which is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In the home, many families observe regular devotional times around the wreath. The practice builds family memories and develops customs that are likely to pass from generation to generation.

**STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.** —*Book of Common Prayer*

*Suggested Daily Scripture Reading*

	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
OT	Daniel 4:1-37	Daniel 5:1-31	Daniel 6:1-28
NT	2 Peter 1:1-21	2 Peter 2:1-22	II Peter 3:1-18
PSA	Psalms 119:97-112	Psalms 119:113-128	Psalms 119:129-152
PROV	Proverbs 27	Proverbs 28	Proverbs 29
	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
	Daniel 7:1-28	Daniel 8:1-27	Daniel 9:1-11:1
	I John 1:1-10	I John 2:1-17	I John 2:18-3:6
	Psalms 119:153-176	Psalms 120:1-7	Psalms 121:1-8
	Proverbs 30	Proverbs 1	Proverbs 2
	<i>Saturday</i>		
	Daniel 11:2-35		
	I John 3:7-24		
	Psalms 122:1-9		
	Proverbs 3		

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The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Isaiah 40:3

Preparation

