



Snow Creek Christian Church

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December 2019

Reflections

The Christian calendar probably needs to be modernized. On December 1, we enter into this strange season known to the church as Advent. To everyone else in America this is Christmastime. The stores have been decorated and the radio has been playing Christmas music for a month already. Everyone is in a frenzy this time of year because Santa Claus is coming to town.



But to the church, Advent is supposed to be a time of spiritual preparation to remember that God came into the world through Christ and one day Christ will come again. It is a time to look inward and consider if we are ready for that. It is meant to be a time of penitence. But, let's be real, if we take too much time asking forgiveness of our sins, we will never get the lights up and Amazon may quit running that deal we have been waiting on. While the church calendar says that this is a time for prayerful reflection, the calendars on our walls or our phones say it is anything but.

That is why Advent is always a good time to practice a spiritual discipline. Do something intentional each day that will help you reconnect with God in the midst of the hustle and bustle. This was the original purpose of Advent calendars and this is why Snow Creek has put out an Advent Devotional. Those who contributed have done an excellent job of reflecting on the difficult scriptures that we often find in Advent. Let their work pay off by planning ten minutes each day to join them in this consideration of God's word by reading the daily devotion.

A spiritual discipline can go beyond the devotional though. It can mean making time for daily prayer; planning to attend each of the four worship services and the Christmas Eve service which carry the church through the Advent season; or setting aside designated time each day to connect with your family or friends. Whatever you are already doing, try taking it a step further so that your faith doesn't get set aside amidst the many distractions that this season brings.

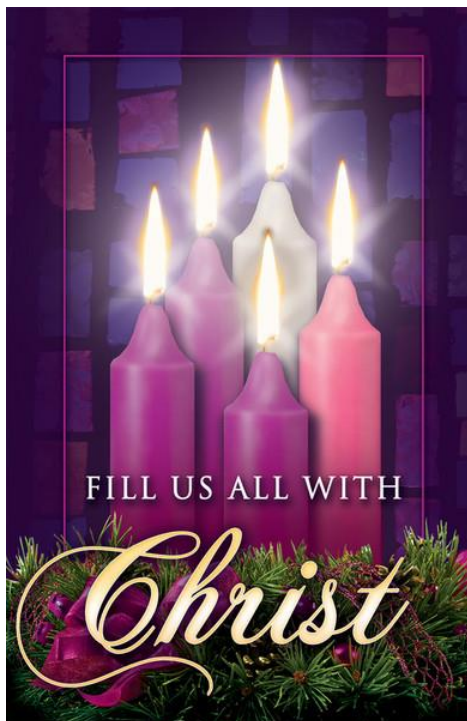
And then celebrate. The Christian church didn't forget about the Christmas celebration, it invented it. And it actually meant for it to be observed much longer than we tend to today. The celebration of Christ's birth is a twelve-day season leading from birth to the revelation of Christ to the wise men which is celebrated on January 6, Epiphany.

So instead of going back to work with just five (+) extra pounds and a headache, make it a point to take a spirit of joy back to everyone. Continue to celebrate the fact that God sent the Christ child into the world to reach out to all of us. Certainly, this joyous occasion cannot be captured in a single day. Christ's coming into the world was supposed to change us for the better. Find a way to allow this to happen, even if you have to start with just these twelve days of Christmas.

Merry Christmas

Scott Oliver

DECEMBER 1 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Hope

Peace

Joy

Love



96:1 O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

96:2 Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

96:3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

96:4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

96:5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

96:6 Honor and majesty are before

him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

96:7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

96:8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

96:9 Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

96:10 Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

96:11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

96:12 let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

96:13 before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

December Lectionary Readings

Sermon topic in *italics*

December 1 (1st Sunday of Advent) *Isaiah 2:1-5*

- Psalm 122
- Romans 13:11-14
- Matthew 24:36-44

December 8 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
- *Romans 15:4-13*
- Matthew 3:1-12

December 15 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

- Isaiah 35:1-10
- Psalm 146:5-10 OR Luke 1:46b-55

- James 5:7-10
- *Matthew 11:2-11*

December 22 (4th Sunday of Advent)

- Isaiah 7:10-16
- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- Romans 1:1-7
- *Matthew 1:18-25*

December 29 (1st Sunday after Christmas)

- Isaiah 63:7-9
- Psalm 148
- Hebrews 2:10-18
- *Matthew 2:13-23*

INFORMATION FROM OUR MINISTER

The Lectionary

The lectionary is an aspect of worship that runs through almost every element of a weekly worship service. Yet, many regular churchgoers do not know much about it or even that it exists. To remedy that, this article is meant to shed some light on what the lectionary is, why it is used, and how it benefits the worship experience.

The church comes together to worship 52 weeks a year under essentially the same format. Because of this constancy, the church is regularly faced with the question of how to keep things interesting while not losing the comfort of its routine functions such as the saying of the Lord's Prayer or taking Holy Communion.

One obvious answer is to have the minister preach a good sermon. In order to do that though, there needs to be some variety in the lessons that ministers draw from each week. This is where the lectionary comes in. The lectionary is a book containing the biblical selections appointed for use at worship (Ramshaw 22). Lectionaries have been used in Christian churches in some form since at least the 4th century CE and are meant to standardize Christian worship to an extent (Ramshaw 71). Some may ask, "Why not just let the worship leader use whatever scriptures they like?"

For starters, it keeps preachers from ignoring, intentionally or not, certain sections of the Bible that may not suit their preferences. It also allows for a much more balanced account of God's revelation. The modern lectionary, usually *The Revised Common Lectionary*, gives a representative reading of most of the Bible over a three-year period (White 77).

Demand for a modernized lectionary came out of a landmark meeting of representatives of the Roman Catholic Church in the 1960s known as the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican or Vatican II. Following this series of meetings, a full-time staff consulted with 800 Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish leaders to publish what would become for Protestants *The Common Lectionary* in 1983 and which would evolve into the current *Revised Common Lectionary* by 1992 (White 77).

The lectionary follows the church calendar which begins anew every year on the 1st Sunday of Advent. The church calendar contains different seasons that center on the major festivals of Christmas and Easter. There are preparatory seasons leading up to those days, celebratory seasons following them, and two other long periods of "ordinary time" in between (White 72).

The lectionary determines Biblical lessons that are representative of the different purposes of each season. It then typically assigns three lessons and a Psalm for each Sunday of the year. The three lessons include a passage from the Old Testament, one from the Epistles or occasionally Revelations, and a main lesson from one of the Gospels. These readings are on

a three-year cycle based on the Gospel lesson for that day. The Gospel of Matthew is the focus of Year A, Mark of Year B, and Luke of Year C with readings from John's Gospel sprinkled into appropriate places throughout (White 78).

Using the lectionary thus allows preachers to guide their congregation through the Bible over this three-year span of time. It gives the preacher some discretion of which reading to select for a given Sunday while forcing ministers to address a wide range of topics with their congregations. It allows for advanced planning and coordination of sermon topics, hymns, prayers, and other elements of the service. All of this helps ministers and churches to provide richer, more balanced, and more varied services which strive to help people strengthen their relationship with God through God's revealed word (White 78).

Works Cited

- Ramshaw, Gail. *Christian Worship: 100,000 Sundays of Symbols and Rituals*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2009. Print.
- White, James F. *Introduction to Christian Worship: Third Edition Revised and Expanded*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2000. E-Book.

Board Meeting

October 13, 2019

G.B. called the meeting to order. Del Smith had our opening prayer. Minutes were reviewed. Bud noted the wording of one sentence. Joyce made a motion to approve the minutes and Linda seconded the motion, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report- There was no treasurer's report.

Pastor's Report- Scott wanted to note that the Community Thanksgiving Service will begin at 3:00 instead of 6:30 in efforts to assist with those who have trouble driving after dark. It will be at Jones Chapel with the Pleasant Grove Minister holding the Service.

Scott said he thought Youth Sunday went well and the kids did great. He has made several hospital visits since our last meeting. He would like to meet with the Ministry Support Committee in regards to potential new members. Scott welcomes suggestions in regards to fellowship for what members would like to see more or less of or something entirely different.

He discussed what was coming up next for his education curriculum. He will be gone for 2 weeks in June for classes.

Barbara wanted to commend Scott for all he did while Ken was in the hospital. He helped Michele get to the hospital and made several visits that were well out of his way.

Committee Reports-

Property-

Worship- There will be a Worship Committee Meeting Sunday, October 20th after church.

Media- GB said Mollie was unsure if it is the clicker, monitor or computer that is causing the on-screen display issues occurring during church service.

Fundraiser- \$1139.00 was taken up from the breakfast fundraiser. The cost of 4-20 tables for the fellowship hall is \$140.00 each. Joyce made a motion to use this money to buy 12 tables for the fellowship hall and Ruth seconded the motion, motion passed. The balance owed would be taken from the general fund.

Old Business- The roof over the fellowship hall still needs to be addressed. There is no definite answer to the issues we are having with the onscreen display.

New Business- The nominating committee has prepared the tentative list for the 2020 officers. Del mentioned that there may need to be some training for some of the younger Diaconates that have been added.

Bud had a copy of the 2019 Operating Budget and a draft for the proposed 2020 Operating Budget in comparison. It was stated the expenses for the parsonage would come from the rental income. The church would get \$810.00 from the \$900.00 in rental money minus the realtor fee.

Bud said the Church should be able to increase the amount it gives to Outreach that in turn goes to help people in need in the community. He also said the back pack program needs to be included in the budget. The Christian Youth Program increased from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00. There will be a Congregational meeting to vote on the finalized proposal.

There were some other points of interest discussed that will be revisited at a later time. The board will meet again to discuss the budget November 10th and present to the Congregation to vote on November 17th.

Krystal asked about the speakers in the nursery so those working the nursery could hear the service upstairs. Curtis said he believed the ones we have still work.

Calendar of Events-

Sunday, October 20th - Worship meeting after Church

Sunday, October 27th -Trunk or Treat 6:00-7:15

Sunday, November 3rd - Barbecue Fundraiser

Sunday, November 10th - Board Meeting

Sunday, November 17th - Congregational Meeting

Sunday November 24th - Community Thanksgiving Service at 3:00PM

Phil had our closing prayer.

Meeting Adjourned, Respectively Submitted, Susan Walker, Secretary

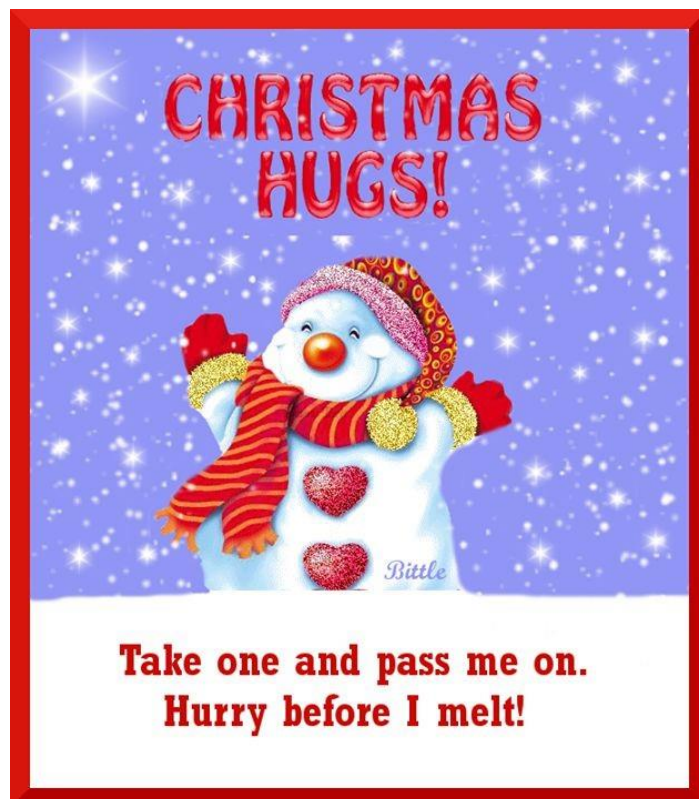


A Special Thanks to Ken for providing insight into the life of Service Members and Veterans.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS MEMORIES GALLERY

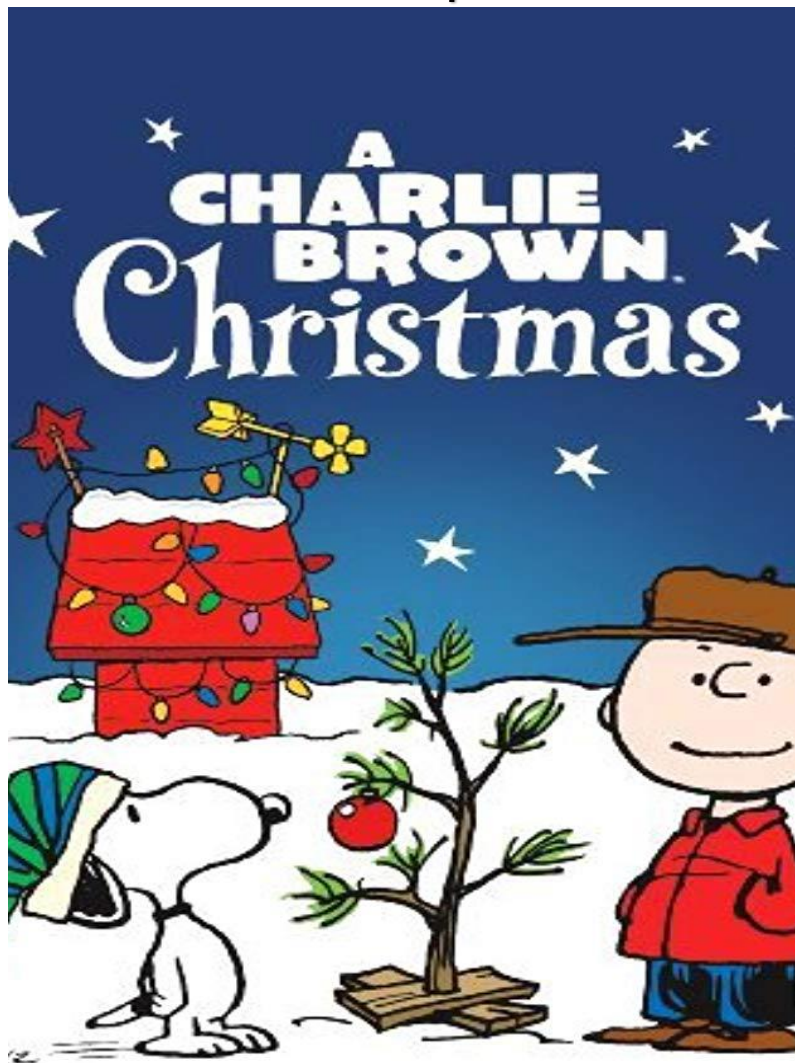








The Children's Christmas Program
December 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Church





UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1 First Sunday of Advent

December 1 7:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast **LADIES INVITED**

December 5 County wide Christian Men's Fellowship Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
at the Church

December 8 Board Meeting

December 15 Children's Christmas Program. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at
6:00 p.m. at the Church.

December 24 Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 p.m. at the Church

Save the date

to be photographed for the new
Snow Creek Christian Church
directory



Photography date
January 22, 2020
2:00-9:00pm

Lifetouch.

FAMILY NEWS



The Church Family is invited to a Baby Shower for Morgan and Josh Washburn on December 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event will be at the Church Social hall. Morgan's registry is Amazon and Target.

<div>  LET'S CELEBRATE  </div>	
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
1 Michele Beall 4 Mason Arrington 5 Cynthia Jordan 7 Nick Doyle 9 Jared Pruitt 10 Lindsey Doyle 11 Aileene Doyle 12 Lee Mitchell 13 Sammy Boyd 19 Donna Thurman 25 JESUS 27 Molly Mitchell 29 Breyer Martin 30 Marty Plybon	7 Phillip & Debbie Haynes 11 Steve & Cynthia Jordan 12 Curtis & Louise Washburn 23 Howard & Betty Lou Mitchell

If you have information for the newsletter on our church family please email me at barbsmith@b2xonline.com or call me at 540 352 4535 or relay in person.