

From Our Pastor – December 2017

THE SEASON OF GREAT ANTICIPATION



Advent is the season of great anticipation, and God knows we need to have our sense of anticipation awakened every now and then—and even raised to high alert levels—because the regularity and monotony of daily life desensitize us to the really exciting things in life.

From a liturgical perspective, we remember the way God prepared the world to receive the Messiah, and how God awakened among his chosen people a sense of anticipation for divine intervention into the cycles of human history. But the celebration of Advent for us is so much more than reenacting sacred history with a once-upon-a-time mindset.

We all know how that story turned out—with angels singing, shepherds rejoicing, wise men paying homage. What matters now is that we allow ourselves to be awakened by that drama to realize what God is doing with us now—today, in order to prepare us for the great adventure of following Christ into a new and glorious future.

We have had glimpses of our future as a church, and we have begun to get excited about it. We have drawn up a plan by which we believe God will lead us there—to be a viable membership with a sustainable stewardship. And we have completed our mission statement and church resume, and we are on the threshold of interviewing prospective candidates for a dedicated pastor!

If all of that preparation by God has not yet awakened us to high adventure, then we haven't been paying attention. The season of anticipation is clearly upon us. It's time to match our vision against the talent and dedication of those we interview—searching, not for the person, but for the signs of God's unfolding purpose.

As we do, we need to know that somewhere in glory, angels are already singing of the glory that will come to us. Shepherds are rejoicing in the fields of heaven for the joy that is ours to behold. And wise men are paying homage in glory for the saving purpose of God that unfolds through us as we prepare to celebrate the miracle of Christmas that is before us.

With gratitude and praise,

David