



Christmas Sunday - 12.21.25

Pastor Mark Schilling

Each week came to reflect a layer of waiting:

- Israel waiting for Messiah**
- John the Baptist preparing the way**
- Mary and Joseph awaiting the birth**
- The Church waiting for Christ's return**

Romans 15:13(NIV)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 - Advent of Love

1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- He gave Jesus in birth at Christmas

- He gave Jesus through the cross

We see the love of God in a manger & at a cross

2 - Advent of hope

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Hope is not a feeling to experience but a person to meet: Jesus

3 - Advent of Joy

Luke 2:10-11(NIV)

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news **that will cause great joy for all the people**. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord

Hebrews 12:1-2(ESV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Happiness is based in happiness

Joy is based in a big picture reality:

What Christ has done

What Christ is doing

What Christ will do

Advent trains the Church:

- To wait in a world that demands instant gratification**
- To live between promise fulfilled & promise yet to come**
- To proclaim that Jesus came, Jesus reigns, and Jesus will come again**