THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 18TH - 19TH, 2021 // ADVENT - THE 5 CANDLES

WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent is the season of year leading up to Christmas, in which Christians traditionally have celebrated and remembered the coming of Christ. The word Advent means, "arrival," so at Advent we celebrate the incarnation, or the fact that God came in the form of man, Jesus, to save and redeem us from our sins. This is what Christmas is all about — and we are so honored that you've chosen to celebrate with us this year!

HOPE - LUPITA HOWELL

ISAIAH 9:2-7 (CSB)

2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living
in the land of darkness. 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased its joy. The people have
rejoiced before you as they rejoice at harvest time and as they rejoice when dividing spoils.
4 For you have shattered their oppressive yoke and the rod on their shoulders, the staff of
their oppressor, just as you did on the day of Midian. 5 For every trampling boot of battle and
the bloodied garments of war will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For a child will be born for
us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 The dominion will
be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his
kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this.

LOVE - ERIC FARMER

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11 (CSB)

1 If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship
with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 make my joy complete by thinking the same way,
having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish
ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. 4
Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others. 5 Adopt
the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, 6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider
equality with God as something to be exploited. 7 Instead he emptied himself by assuming
the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, 8
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.
9 For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the
earth—11 and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

JOY - JALEN TAYLOR

MATTHEW 1:18-25 (CSB)

18 The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to
Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy
Spirit. 19 So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her
publicly, decided to divorce her secretly. 20 But after he had considered these things, an angel
of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take
Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will
give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their
sins." 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

> *23 See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will*
> *name him Immanuel, which is translated "God is with us."*

24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her
25 but knew her not until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.

PEACE - DENA LEE

JOHN 16:33 (CSB)

33 I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in
this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."

CHRIST - COREY TRIMBLE

LUKE 2:1-20 (CSB)

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire[a] should be
registered. 2 This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So
everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 Joseph also went up from the town of
Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was
of the house and family line of David, 5 to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to
him and was pregnant. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 Then she
gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger,
because there was no guest room available for them.

8 In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over
their flock. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone
around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look,
I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: 11 Today in the city of
David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be the sign for you:
You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly there was a
multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

> *14 Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to*
> *people he favors!*

15 When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
"Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known
to us." 16 They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in
the manger. 17 After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child,
18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary was
treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. 20 The shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard, which were just as they
had been told.

God Bless You and Merry Christmas

May you and yours experience the hope, love, joy, and peace of Christ!

THE EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY TEAM