

ADVENT *for* 2021



And He Shall
Be Called...



ARDMORE BAPTIST CHURCH

What the world needs now...

I think we can all agree that what our world needs right now is a big ol' dose of hope, peace, joy, and love. We are not only near the end of 2021. We are nearly through the second year of the pandemic.

As I write this we are in an “in-between” time. Earlier this year the Delta variant had us taking a couple of steps backward but there was not a need to close down completely as we did in 2020. We are wearing masks indoors and being careful but, with the vaccine, we have felt freer to gather together in greater numbers. Most of the folks I know took vacations over the summer and now plan to see family over the holiday season.

We are in-between the now and the not yet. We know what life was like before the pandemic, we know what is happening now; and we hope for what can be in the future.

Sound familiar? Yes, that's Advent. We know what happened in the past, what is happening now, and we see glimpses of what can be and what will come through the grace of Christ. He came as a baby 2000 years ago and he will return, wiping every tear away. Death and pain (and pandemics) will be no more (Rev. 21:1-4). As Julian of Norwich wrote, “All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.”

In the meantime, we live in the “in-between” – doing our best to live our lives like Jesus lived his – full of hope, peace, joy, and love. Reading through these devotions inspired a greater hope in my soul. May they do so in yours, too.



Dr. Gina M. Brock, Associate Pastor

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021



AND HE SHALL BE CALLED...

*Wonderful
Counselor*

Luke 1:46-56



ARDMORE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, November 28, 2021

The First Sunday of Advent - Hope - Luke 1:46-56

Mary's Song

I cannot read this passage without singing the first few lines in my head. If you are not familiar with the Magnificat, there are many versions to be found with a quick Google search, or you might try the one at this link: <https://bit.ly/MagSong>.

In what must have been a confusing and overwhelming time for Mary, she chooses to praise God in her song and remembers all that He has done for His people. Though she might be afraid and not able to understand all that has befallen her, she does not express any trepidation. It is completely understandable that she would question God, bemoan her circumstances, and run away to hide from Joseph and the rest of society. But this is not what Mary does. Instead, she sings a beautiful song to the Lord. She knows that our God is a God of Hope. She lists the many things that gave the Jewish people hope, and should do the same for us today. The Lord extends mercy to His people, He lifts up the humble, He provides for the hungry, He helps us, and has done so for generations. What can we learn from Mary's song of praise? Do we follow Mary's example? When we are confused, overwhelmed, hurting, and not sure which way to turn, do we question God or do we praise Him? The Psalmist tells us to "rejoice before God...sing to God, sing in praise of his name" (Psalm 68:3-4). This is just what Mary does, even though she does not know what the future holds. Mary has hope because she is a child of God and knows that He will bless her. In this Advent season, let us follow Mary's example, rejoicing and praising God because of the hope Jesus brings to all.

Leslie Baldwin is a member and co-teacher in the Adult 6 Sunday Bible Study class and a member of the Adult Choir. She is married to Lou. Their son, Will, is 16 and her stepson, Henry, is 24. Leslie is the Director of World Languages for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. Lou and Leslie have been members of Ardmore for 20 years. They are grateful to be a part of the Ardmore family.

Monday, November 29, 2021

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comforting Words

In an article titled “I’m Here for You”, Julie Weingarden Dubin offers suggestions as words of comfort when helping a friend get through a tough time:

- When someone’s loved one has died...
Say: “I know this is a horrible loss for you and I want you to know that I’m here for you if you need me.”
Avoid saying: “He lived a long life.” For the mourner, no life is long enough.
- When someone loses a job...
Say: “I’m so sorry to hear that. Is there any way I can help you?”
Avoid saying: “I’m sure you’ll find something.”
- When someone gets cancer...
Say: “I’m so sorry you have to go through this. I’m here if you want to talk.”
Avoid saying: “Everything’s going to be fine.”

Words which give the most comfort are ones that show we understand, share their pain, and offer our help and presence through the tough times.

God’s words through the prophet Isaiah provided the comfort the Israelites needed in a most difficult time. They were once a great nation, chosen and blessed by the One True God. But when they became distracted and selfish and turned away from God, they were overcome by the Babylonians and taken into exile.

God didn’t say “Suck it up, buttercup. You will be OK. I hope you learned your lesson!” Instead, he offers his comfort, help, and presence.

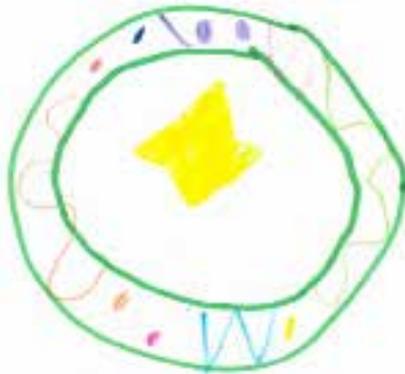
“Comfort, O comfort, my people.” ^(v1)

“See the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and his arm rules for him.” ^(v10)

“He tends his flock like a shepherd;
He gathers the lambs in his arms
And carries them close to his heart;” (v11)

During Advent, we recognize that God is speaking these words of comfort to us. No matter what tough time we are going through right now, God offers comfort, help, and presence through his son, Jesus. We anxiously wait for his coming and live in the hope of his glory!

Alan Gill is the Church Administrator. He and his wife, Julie, have three grown children and a beautiful grandchild, and are looking forward to seeing them all over the holidays. Alan feels blessed and comforted to be part of the faithful community of Ardmore Baptist Church.



Drawing by Spencer Vann, age 7, son of
Ryan & Shanna Vann

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Micah 5:1-5a

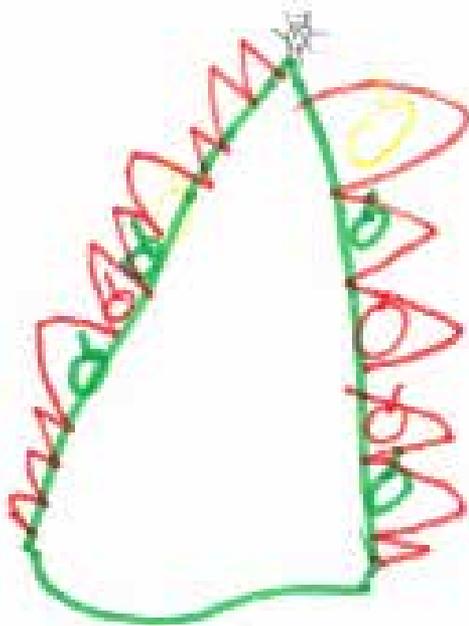
The Hope for the One Who Will Be Our Peace

The descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had suffered a history of conquest, deportation, slavery, and domination by a series of powerful empires: the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans. Their scriptures pointed to their God as the one who required justice, mercy, and humility. Their failure to live up to these responsibilities was interpreted by their religious and political pundits (known as prophets) as the cause of their incessant domination by some of history's most powerful empires. Occasionally there would be a glimmer of hope from some of these prophets that one day a leader would arise who would bring freedom, security, unity, and peace backed by the full power of their God. Perhaps this Great Leader would be born in the same small, obscure village that produced their greatest king known as David. Of course, hope can be fleeting . . .

A young peasant girl (also a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) found herself pregnant out of wedlock. Somehow, she and her husband-to-be found courage to deal with this (they said it was based upon guidance from angels sent by their God). Because of another edict from another dominating power (this time the Romans), they were forced to leave their village and travel as refugees to be registered for taxation purposes, ironically in that same obscure village where that prophet had said this Great Leader would be born. Their son was born in a cattle shed, and his first crib was a feeding trough. The odds seemed rather hopeless that this child would amount to much in his life.

But what is impossible with people, is not with God; for all things are possible with God. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the One born in Bethlehem, and through Him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven. Those who believe Him have been given the right to be children of God. He has become the Hope of the Hopeless!

Cecil Price is the teacher of the “Children of Israel” Sunday Bible Study class. Before the pandemic he helped to lead the Ardmore Adult Movie Night. He has been a member at Ardmore Baptist for 32 two years and is married to Resa. They have two grown sons (Dwight and Jonathan). Cecil is originally from Kinston, North Carolina and is the Executive Director of the Wake Forest University Student Health Service. Cecil and Resa’s wish is that you will find the hope that Jesus brings!



Drawing by Simon Olayinka, age 8, son of
Wally & Matilda Olayinka

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

I strongly dislike waiting. From traffic lights, to upcoming vacations, to dinner reservations, to next life stages, I often feel certain I could do without waiting. Yet, hope, which is one of the four Advent themes, means to wait (insert ‘patiently’) for something to occur or to eagerly anticipate. Unlike hoping or wishing for something upon extinguishing a birthday candle (pre-COVID of course), God-given hope is better defined as “*to desire with expectation of obtainment or fulfillment.*” It goes beyond merely a feeling of optimism to a soul-based knowledge that God reigns.

In today’s scripture, the writer speaks honestly with God, relaying that the situation is not good. There are “tears by the bowlful,” the people feel disconnected from God, and enemies are eager to mock them. Even so, the writer repeatedly asks that God let His face shine upon His people, that He would restore and save them. The text reminds us that amidst our struggles (be they a sense of separation from God, a relationship dismantled, a job not attained, etc.), hope is found in the restoring power of God Almighty alone. I imagine the writer hopes out of experience, having come to know the God that gave Isaac and Rebekah a child after 20 years of hoping. He is the same God that reunited Joseph with his family after 22 years of hoping in captivity. He is the God who reconciled Jacob and Esau’s relationship after 20 years of estrangement. What waiting! What hoping!

The writer’s hope in the Lord is unwavering, being fully persuaded that God has the power to do that which he promises (Romans 4:21). So despite my dislike of waiting, I am finding that it is in the waiting, and sometimes even *because* of the waiting, that I learn to place my hope in God. Hoping in earthy things so often leaves us hope-less, but hoping in the Lord is infallible.

Juliana Sullivan is originally from VA but is glad to call NC home. She is the daughter of Jim and Jaulita Sullivan.

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Micah 4:1-5

The Hope that God Gives

Hope. It's something we hold on to for the future. Sometimes we hope in an unrealistic fashion, even when we know it won't happen. At other moments we hope because there is nothing left to do. And still other moments we hope in faith for what is to come. But if we look at the essence of hope, we find that its true nature is built in Christ. Christ brings hope through reconciliation, between us and God. Christ brings hope through his example, which brings healing and reconciliation between human relationships. Christ brings hope through showing us another way, a way that isn't built on violence and retribution, but in forgiveness and transformation.

Wouldn't it be nice if conflict didn't result in a winner and loser? Wouldn't it be nice if weapons of pain and death were used to create and bring things to life? What would our world look like if money wasn't spent on weapons of death but on the hungry, hurting, etc.? The hope we find in Christ is that all people, no matter who they are can come together and find love, acceptance, comfort, rest, and peace. That sounds like the kind of place I would like to be. So in this season of Advent/preparation what would it look like for our hope in Christ to take the form of reconciling a broken relationship...of using some of your time to give rest to another...to coming together with those different from you and seeing each of them as a child of God? In our own way, each of us can provide space for hope to shine in and for peace to reign.

Dane Martin is the Minister with Students. He is married to Gretchen Martin. They have two sons, Finley and Brooks. During the Christmas season they love to watch Christmas movies and bake Christmas cookies.

Friday, December 3, 2021

Micah 4:6-7

I am not a grace and peace kind of gal (sorry Saint Paul). I am a grace and hope kind of gal. My favorite hymns are about grace and hope. Grace because of God sending Jesus to earth to be our Savior, and hope because hope keeps us going.

I learned early in my nursing career that life is hard - sometimes really hard. I've even experienced some of the hard times myself. But I've also learned that even in what seems like impossible circumstances, hope will keep us going, trying and striving.

Hope comes from many sources but, for the Christian, hope starts with Christmas when God sent the greatest gift of all – His son, Jesus. This hope of Christmas is not about presents, although the wise men presented gifts. It's about hope - hope of love, of forgiveness and salvation, of eternal life with God, of no more pain and difficulties, of God with us no matter what.

I am looking forward to flying home to Canada to see my Dad at Christmas after two years of not being able to visit due to Covid. I'm hoping Covid doesn't ramp up and that our flights aren't cancelled so that Joshua and I can go. Coming home to my family here and going to visit family, after being so sick in the hospital five times last fall and all the trials of Covid, remind me of our verses for today. My family will gather to celebrate Christ's birth and spend time together. These verses tell when God will gather all the downtrodden to meet with Him. What a great hope – no matter what, He is with us and is waiting for us.

Lisa Lowther is originally from Fredericton, New Brunswick and is a nurse at Wake Forest Baptist. She has been married to Todd for almost 20 years and has a 13-year-old son, Joshua. She loves teaching preschool Sunday School, gardening, baking, sewing, knitting, singing hymns, and gospel music.

Saturday, December 4, 2021

Psalm 90

I love hymns. When I was a child, I took several years of piano lessons. When my teacher asked me what I wanted to learn to play, I was the nerdy kid who answered “hymns.” Being the great teacher she was (big kudos to you, Mrs. Parker), she found an easy-to-play book of hymns. I learned to play each one and still have that little book of hymns in my music library.

Hymns are our modern-day psalms. I am often surprised at the hymns lyrics that return to my mind when I’m offering prayers to God. Just like the psalms, sometimes hymns give me the words for what I need to share with God.

In Psalm 90:4 we read,

*For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.*

When I read that, I hear:

*A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

Yep, one of my favorites – *O God Our Help in Ages Past* – a hymn about how God is our hope and our help, then and now. I cannot think of a time we need to hear this more than right now. Those ‘stormy blasts’ (vs. 1) do their worst and we may be battered and bruised, yet God sustains us. He holds us and helps us. We are not alone. God has us in his embrace.

There is no better expression of this than what we celebrate in this season – the coming of his Son, Jesus, who was God-in-the-flesh. He is our hope for years to come.

*O God, our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Be thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.*

Gina Brock is the Associate Pastor. She is married to Chip and they have one daughter, Rebecca (15). Also sharing their home (and part of their family) are three cats and a goofy English bulldog named Cecil.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 2021



AND HE SHALL BE CALLED...

*Mighty
God*

Isaiah 9:6



ARDMORE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 5, 2021

The Second Sunday of Advent - Peace - Isaiah 9:2-7

I See The Moon, The Moon Sees Me

Recently I had the pleasure of standing outside to enjoy a bright, full moon. My backyard faces a big woods so normally I do not go outside at night for fear of what may be lurking in the shadows. On this particular night the moon was unusually bright. Its brilliant light chased away all the shadows of darkness allowing me a clear view of the woods and gave me a sense of peace and assurance that I was safe.

I was reminded of this experience as I read Isaiah 9:2-7. The verses paint a dismal picture of darkness, oppression, and war that had become the disorder of the day for Israel during a time when the country was under the dominion of Assyria. Assyria occupied the territory all around Israel and had destroyed towns in the north of Israel sending survivors into exile.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the coming of a “Great Light” which would illuminate the darkness of Galilee when the righteous reign of a coming king would begin. Because of this Light, the people would experience peace and a complete reversal of their present condition.

As Christians, Christmas represents the birth of Hope, a light shining in the darkness. Darkness can feel overwhelming and exacerbates our fears. Whatever our fears, we can remain confident that the Light in Christ’s presence will chase away all shadows, giving us a sense of peace and assurance that we are safe.

Ann Ray was raised in a small rural Baptist church in Union County, NC. She recently retired from Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center after a 27-year career as a registered nurse. She holds Bachelor of Nursing and Master of Health Administration degrees. She and her husband, Andy, make their home in Clemmons.

Monday, December 6, 2021

Luke 1:5-25

This Advent devotion was written by my mother, Pat Brock, for First Baptist Church in Greenville, SC in 1997. She passed away in 2015. Mom wrote many Advent devotions until Alzheimer's robbed her of her thoughts and words. This is one of my favorites:

“Several years ago, my father bought my mother a new house as a Christmas present. She didn't want a new house and she certainly didn't need one. Five of the six children were married and no longer at home and the youngest was away at college. However, as always, she went along with his decision and his sometimes-extravagant ways. They moved into the new house two weeks before Christmas.

After moving from the house my mother loved, they prepared it to be put on the market by painting, repairing any damage, and doing the other usual things.

On Christmas afternoon, my family and I were the last ones to arrive for our traditional family get-together. We were excited and anxious about seeing the new house. Before we could get out of the car one of my sisters ran out and said, ‘Don't say anything about the house. We're moving back home tomorrow.’ So, we went in for Christmas dinner and presents and mentioned not one word about the house or that the furniture seemed out of place.

The day after Christmas the moving van arrived, along with neighbors, who had come to welcome my parents but said goodbye instead. By the end of that day, the furniture was back in its usual place, the drapes and pictures were hanging in a newly freshened house, and my parents were back home.

Later we learned our mother missed her house so much that she hardly ate or slept those two weeks she spent in the new house. Reluctant to tell our dad she wanted to move back because he seemed so excited about the new house, she had one of my sisters break the news to him. He immediately responded, ‘Well, we'll just move back.’ And they did.

My mother didn't want to stay in the new house because there were no memories there. Neither the furniture nor the feelings fit. It was just not home.

Sometimes, during the Christmas season, our memories might be missing, and the furniture and feelings don't fit. When that happens, let's go to the manger, remember, and find ourselves back at home."

The peace and promise of the manger are always there waiting for us to come home. Thanks for the reminder, Mom. Amen.

Chip Brock is married to Gina Brock, Associate Minister to Ardmore Baptist Church. They have one daughter, Rebecca, three cats, and an English Bulldog.



Drawing by Jacob Trepal, age 8, son of
Shaun & Brooke Trepal

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Psalm 126

How to Share Peace

Let me begin by saying I am not a writer, minister, or life coach. I am a Manufacturing Engineering Manager – I solve problems in production facilities. I was asked to share a devotional for this year's Advent Devotional book, so I am approaching it as engineer. Understand the goal, gather the resources, and find the solution. The goal is an Advent devotion. The resources - the scripture for my devotion which is Psalm 126, the theme of the week is Peace, and a lot of prayers for guidance (I supplied them). While reading the scriptures, a couple of verses stood out to me.

*Then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.*

This made me think about all the great things the Lord has done for me, but how does that relate to Peace? Then that Sunday during the morning worship service the Prayer of St. Francis was used as a Call to Worship. In case you are not familiar with this prayer, it begins – *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.*

Inspiration from a 13-century prayer that works just as well today.

We are to share what we have been given (ref. Psalm 126 2b-3), including Peace and Joy.

An example of being an instrument of peace. Years ago, I struggled with many of the personalities at work. When they disagreed with me and my recommendations, I took it personally and started to avoid them. Which made getting anything done at work very difficult. I knew that I needed God to help me deal with people at work. I decided to begin each day at work with a short devotion and prayer for my relationship with my co-workers. God used this time to change me and helped me be at peace and love the people I work with.

So, what I am saying is that all of us who the Lord has filled with Joy should do as St. Francis said, and share the Joy and Peace with others.

Randy Steen is the Mfg. Eng. Manager for ASCO Power Technology in Welcome, NC. He is married to Beth and they have 3 children and 9 grandchildren. They have been members of Ardmore Baptist church since 2004.



Drawing by Annmarie Chancey, age 8, daughter of Joshua & Jen Chancey

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Isaiah 11:1-9

A Sign, a Situation, and a Savior

Last Christmas, a church sign caught my attention because it asked a question that is both penetrating and relevant. It appeared near the little town of Bethlehem. Not the Bethlehem in the Holy Land, but the Bethlehem located just outside Taylorsville in Alexander County. The church used its message board to ask this: “Are You Part of the Inn Crowd or Part of the Stable Few?”

Remember this about the “inn crowd” - they did not have room for Jesus.

But, according to Scripture - the owner of the stable made a special place for Jesus.

Do you recall the situation? Mary and Joseph were at home in Nazareth. And yet, God had already promised, and Micah had already prophesied, that the baby would be born in Bethlehem. Why would a woman make a grueling 90-mile trip during the final days of her pregnancy? The answer is that “God’s divine itinerary” led them back to Joseph’s hometown, where they could be counted for the census.

Today, many of our fellow citizens are dealing with pessimism, commercialism, cynicism, and several other “isms.” Speaking of cynicism, a friend told me about a man who is convinced that Humpty Dumpty was pushed off the wall.

As Christians, we can be optimistic because God’s promises are always fulfilled. A kind-hearted innkeeper shared the gift of hospitality, and made room for that expectant mother. That same night, she gave birth to a little baby who grew up to be the Savior of the world.

As Christmas approaches, many of us will be pondering important questions, such as “Should we do our shopping on-line or venture out to the mall?” Or, “Will it be safe to gather at grandmother’s house this year?”

There is another question to ponder, straight from a church sign in the little town of Bethlehem, North Carolina: “Are you part of the inn crowd or part of the stable few?”

J. Warren Steen serves as President of the Rye Foundation, which makes charitable gifts throughout North Carolina in the areas of religion, youth, and education. At our church, he enjoys teaching the Bible story to our first grade Sunday School class.



Drawing by Dorothy Wang, age 8, daughter of
Fred Wang & Susan Song

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Hebrews 8:8-12

It's easy to talk about peace without really sitting with its meaning. Shalom is a Hebrew word meaning peace, wholeness, completeness. I don't know about you but in my life I crave wholeness. Let me invite you to a time of shalom with God.

Decide on a word to center yourself on. Shalom, peace, wholeness, Jesus, or some other word that grounds you in God's goodness in Advent.

Take a deep breath. Sit comfortably with your feet on the ground and your hands on your legs. Close your eyes and breathe in and out.

While you are breathing, say the word you chose over and over in time with your breath in a way that bathes you with the presence of Jesus. Do this for two to three minutes. When you are done, say a sentence prayer thanking God.

Hebrews 8:10 says, "*I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.*" When we spend time centering ourselves on shalom with Jesus, we allow God to write God's laws (of love, joy, hope, and peace) on our hearts.

Lee Ritchie is Minister with Children and Families. She is married to Jason and they have two wild and wonderful children who daily teach her patience, creativity, and the abundance of God's grace and goodness.

Friday, December 10, 2021

Luke 1:26-38

Christmas is a season for joy and celebration. During Advent we excitedly wait and prepare for the good news that Jesus was born and is our Savior! But when reflecting on today's scripture, I am reminded that Mary was very likely far from excited or overjoyed when she had her encounter with Gabriel. Can you imagine being given the news that not only are you going to have a child out of wedlock but it will be God's Son? After picking my jaw up off of the floor, I probably would have had an anxiety attack. Although we are not given a lot of details about Mary's reaction to this news, the NIV tells us that ultimately she responds with "I am the Lord's servant, may your word to me be fulfilled." I am in awe of how much faith and trust Mary had in God. Even though I'm sure she was terrified about what the future would hold, I'm assuming that God gave her an inner peace to know that she and her family would be ok.

Over the past two years there has been a lot of fear and uncertainty in our world. I often struggle with feeling overwhelmed and anxious about what the future holds. I'm sure that Mary felt this way upon receiving the news that she would give birth to the Christ child. My prayer this Advent season is that I can have the faith of Mary to trust in God even during uncertain times. I also pray to experience the inner peace that Mary must have felt knowing that God is ultimately in control and nothing is impossible with Him.

Jennie Kerley works as a physician assistant in a family practice in Clemmons. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Michael, and they have two children - Natalie (8) and Tyler (5). She has been a member at Ardmore Baptist Church since 2009 and is grateful for the relationships she has built here.

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Matthew 1:18-25

We meet Joseph in Matthew 1:18-25 as his world has just fallen apart. Previously, everything had gone according to plan. He was established enough to support a family and was engaged to a nice girl from a good family. Then, his fiancée turns up pregnant with a child that was not his. We can assume he felt betrayed, angry, hurt, and disappointed. As he is awake, worrying about how he could send Mary away quietly, an angel appears and Joseph's world shifts again. He is now asked to be a stepfather to the son of God.

Accepting his part in God's plan is only the first step in what Matthew tells us of Joseph's journey. In the next few years, Joseph would leave everything to travel to Bethlehem at the whim of a far off emperor. Away from home and family, he had to beg for a space in a stranger's garage to deliver Mary's first child. He and Mary would unexpectedly host shepherds and foreign academics and then again abandon everything to flee to Egypt to escape another politician who would kill a city's worth of infant and toddler boys to protect his power. It is no wonder that the angel opens his visit with "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife." The angel did not share everything that would happen and did not promise the road would be quick, easy or free of sorrow. Instead, he simply told Joseph what he needed to do next. The Bible never reports any words spoken by Joseph, but only tells us that he immediately obeyed.

Like Joseph, many of us have seen our world shift, fall apart, and reshape in ways we do not yet fully understand. We have lived with loneliness, fear, disappointment, uncertainty, and loss. During the last two years, my family has faced significant challenges. As he did for Joseph, God provided numerous unexpected gifts that gave certainty in hard decisions and eased our burdens. I pray that all of us will find peace and comfort this Advent season, certain in the knowledge of God's never-ending love.

Kim Nelson is married to Brian and is the mother of Kaitlyn Nelson. She works in the Biochemistry Department at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Kim has been a member at Ardmore for 17 years and is currently teaching 5th-6th grade Sunday Bible Study.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021



AND HE SHALL BE CALLED...

*Everlasting
Father*

John 14:8-14



ARDMORE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 12, 2021

The Third Sunday of Advent - Joy - John 14:8-14

So much of the Advent and Christmas season is built around traditions. I love hearing and learning about the rituals that folks hold dear. Some of the most interesting aspects are how they got started and why they continued. For our family, one of the longest-running traditions is our process for getting our Christmas tree. When our oldest son was just a little over a year old, James and I took him to the mountains of North Carolina to choose and cut a Christmas tree (now 22 years and counting). That is not unique for anyone who lives in this area; however, what I cherish most about it is that it became a rhythm for our family which eventually also involved extended family.

Each year after the Thanksgiving feast is barely a memory - full of favorite desserts and all the carbs you can handle - as many as 20 Fowlers have loaded up in vehicles to caravan to the mountains in search of Christmas trees for each of our respective homes. And, while the tree is the result of our journey, it is never truly the point.

This tradition stands as a rhythm for us. And through this rhythm, we have memories and sweet reminders of time together that would otherwise not have existed. Every year our circumstances look a little different. They sometimes include new additions and seasons of life but the rhythm remains the same.

God is the author of rhythms. We see it in scripture as we reflect on how God rescues, restores, and redeems. From the beginning, He established rhythms of creating and resting. And scripture reminds us that the gift of Jesus, our Savior and King, is woven in and through it all. He is the light that overcomes darkness.

John 1:1-5, 9

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.

9The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

May today's scripture remind you of God's kindness and love towards you as you remember the One who was, and is and will be – the giver of light and life.

DeNeal Fowler joined the Ardmore Baptist staff as Minister of Invitation and Hospitality in 2017. She and her husband, James, have been members since 1995 after relocating to the Winston-Salem area. They have two young adult sons, Grayson and Samuel, and a daughter, Lorna, who is a junior in high school. And, if you are looking for a new tradition, DeNeal recommends Lil'Grandfather Mountain Christmas Tree Farm in Laurel Springs, NC. If you visit the Saturday after Thanksgiving, you might just see her family there.

Monday, December 13, 2021

Luke 1:39-45

Good news is always made better when it's shared with others. I don't know at what point it happened in my life that my mom became one of my best friends but news isn't real until I've told her about it. It could be trivial information from a newsletter, a family milestone, or a fun work celebration but sharing those things with her makes them real. That's exactly why I can understand this story of Mary visiting Elizabeth. As soon as the angel leaves Mary she rushes to Elizabeth's house to share the news of what's happened. Mary telling Elizabeth makes it real. It makes the good news of what's coming even better. How is the good news made better by telling it? It solidifies our belief. Mary believed what the angel told her and went to share, trusting that God would fulfill his promise to her.

One of my favorite hymns, "Amazing Grace" has a line that I recite to myself over and over again when I need it. It says, "The Lord has promised good to me." The Lord has promised good to me and to you, just like God did to Mary. Believe and trust in the good that God has promised you. There is great joy to be found in the promises of God. May we be reminded of the promise especially in this season of Advent.

Amy Gallaher is married to Tyler and together they have JT who is 7 and canine, Sandy, who is 11. She works as the Minister of Missional Engagement and loves serving alongside the people of Ardmore Baptist Church and community.

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

God began sharing the good news of the gospel long before Jesus was born. That is, through the words of the prophets He revealed his plan of salvation through his son Jesus Christ, an example of which is the scripture upon which today's devotion is based. Isaiah, who was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write about Jesus Christ some 700 years before his birth, crafts a beautiful messianic passage that would ultimately affect all of mankind. Specifically, in today's verses Isaiah references spreading the good news to the poor, binding up (healing) the broken hearted, proclaiming freedom to the captives and releasing prisoners from the darkness, which foreshadows the work of our savior seven centuries before his birth.

Closely related to today's scripture is Luke 4:16-30, which is generally regarded as the first sermon that Jesus preached when, in his hometown of Nazareth, he read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. By specifically choosing to read from Chapter 61, he affirms that the Spirit of the Lord was upon him and that he had been anointed to, among other things, "proclaim the good news to the poor." Significantly, he concluded by stating that "*Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing,*" thereby confirming that he is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

Advent is often described as a period of waiting to see and hear again the story of how God came into the world in the flesh of his son Jesus to free us, comfort us and fill us with the unbridled joy of knowing that our deliverance and transformation come from Christ alone. We also find comfort in knowing that the brokenhearted can be healed, the captive can be freed, those who mourn can be comforted, and that there can be joy instead of sorrow if we believe and trust in Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior. In closing, please take comfort in knowing we live in a world created, sustained and eventually redeemed by a loving, compassionate and forgiving God.

Jim Hutcherson began attending Ardmore in the early 1980s at the invitation of his sister, Christa Warise, who was serving as Minister of Youth and Visitation at the time. Jim and his wife, Elizabeth, have four children who live in Houston, Dallas, Charlottesville, and Philadelphia, the last of whom is a college freshman.

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Luke 1:57-66

The verses In Luke 1:57-66 (Birth of John the Baptist) are filled with Joy and the hand of God.

- Elizabeth Gives birth to a son and she is of course joyful.
- The neighbors and relatives share her joy.
- Zechariah, the father, was mute but when everyone said his son must be named for him (as was the custom), he wrote on a tablet, "His name is John." He then started SPEAKING, PRAISING GOD! He and all in the presence of this miracle were filled with joy.
- The word spread throughout Judea. All were joyful and knew that God's hand was with (and continued to be with) John.

Isn't it wonderful to know, when people realize and accept that God is in control, they become peaceful and JOYFUL !

My prayer is that everyone finds JOY in everyday living and realizes it all comes from God.

Bill and Robbie Brown joined Ardmore Baptist Church along with Robbie's mother, Marilyn Ledbetter, in 2016. Bill is semi-retired and Robbie is a Nurse Practitioner at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital. Their daughter, Samantha, is married to William Hsu - they live in Portland, OR.

Thursday, December 16, 2021

Psalm 27

Being a musician, I am naturally drawn to the psalms. It seems that whenever I am in need of hope, peace, joy, or love, I find myself reading the psalms. The writers of the psalms, and especially David, speak to us with very human emotions that we all experience and can relate to. The poetry and music of the psalms also speak to our souls.

Psalm 27 is one of my favorite psalms of encouragement. It is a prayer attributed to King David and is a cry for help in times of trouble. But most importantly, it is an affirmation of faith, a proclamation that the Lord is our light, our salvation, and our stronghold; the things that we need the most in our times of distress and trouble. Recently one of my friends and colleagues, Carol Hill, sang the famous Frances Allitson arrangement of Psalm 27 in our worship services. The music is strong and bold and filled with big chords and arpeggios and great crescendos as it proclaims “the Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? And the phrase “whom shall I fear?” is repeated over and over. As Carol sang those words my heart was filled with **Joy** and with the assurance of knowing that God is our stronghold and our light, and that we need not fear in those difficult times. In these days of continued pandemic it seems that we are filled with more anxiety and fear than ever before. During this Advent season let us continually be reminded of the **Joy** that we can have because God has sent his son into the world to be our light, our salvation, and our strength in times of trouble. Like the psalmist in verse 6, let us respond with “shouts of joy, singing and making music to the Lord,” especially in our times of darkness, because the Lord is our light and our salvation! The psalmist ends with these words, “*I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*” During this Advent season of waiting, may you rely on the strength of the Lord and experience the joy of being confident of the goodness of the Lord.

David Fitzgerald has served as Minister of Worship, Music, and Arts at Ardmore Baptist for the past seven years. He is married to Martha, who teaches 4th grade at Pinebrook Elementary School. They have four children, Adam, Joel, Emily, and Zac and are enjoying grand-parenting with their first grandchild, Nora Rose, who just turned 1 year old.

Friday, December 17, 2021

Isaiah 60:1-5

Darkness is endemic to our fallen world. Regarding the ninth plague of Egypt, the Lord foretold “a darkness to be felt” (Ex. 10:21). I don’t know about you, but I have felt darkness in recent times. Fear, uncertainty, pain, loss, and conflict have all encroached and threatened to overwhelm. Where is joy in all of this? Psalm 30:5 tells us that “weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”

For the Lord our God is not content to leave his people in darkness. During the plague of darkness, “all the people of Israel had light where they lived” (Exodus 10:23). The Lord did not call them away to find light; he met them where they were and provided. So too, by grace according to his merciful love he has provided for his children now.

Today’s passage employs the beautiful imagery of a sunrise (or “son-rise” if you’re keen on puns). How appropriate it is during this Advent season to train our eyes on the horizon, awaiting the arrival of the Light of the world. Jesus Christ came down to redeem us from the bondage of darkness and restore us to the glory of God’s presence. And to what effect? We, God’s children, shine his light into the world, not by any mustering of our own effort, but by humbly reflecting his radiance. And by our witness, through obedience to his teaching and sharing of his gospel, the Lord will work to bring his children into community with his flock.

So, arise, shine, child of God! “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5). Such is the basis of our joy.

Christy Van Nostrand grew up at Ardmore; you may know her as the flute girl. After graduating from UNCW this December, she looks forward to returning to Winston.

Saturday, December 18, 2021

Luke 1:68-79

Whenever I think of joy, I can't help but think of the hymn "Joy to the World." Listening to a talented choir (like Ardmore's, of course) belting out this song at a Christmas service, with deep bass and high soprano, thrills the heart.

Isaac Watts, an English minister, wrote the words to the hymn over three hundred years ago. Watts apparently found inspiration for the song in the book of Psalms. He might just as well have consulted the book of Luke, where joy lives in the story of Zechariah.

Luke 1:68-79 records the praises of Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, after he's been through a trial of his own making. A well-respected and committed priest, Zechariah encountered the angel Gabriel one day while burning incense in the temple. The encounter scared him to death, until the angel announced that his wife would bear a child who would prepare the way for the Messiah. Zechariah was old and his wife was barren, and to him the idea of the couple having any child, let alone one with a special mission, was silly. He had the temerity to ask Gabriel for proof. The angel struck him silent.

Zechariah got the message, and eventually his tongue was freed and he started praising God for the gift of both John and Jesus. A gift that brings us salvation is the true definition of joy. Zechariah's song set the whole countryside to buzzing, and we haven't stopped singing about this good news since.

Chris Hartley has been a member of Ardmore since 1992. He and his wife, Laurie, have two children. Caroline is a schoolteacher in Winston-Salem, and Taylor Ann is a college student at High Point University. They are looking forward to celebrating the joy of Christmas together!

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 19, 2021



AND HE SHALL BE CALLED...

Prince of
Peace

Mark 4:35-41



ARDMORE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 19, 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love - Mark 4:35-41

2 Timothy 1:7 says *For God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self-control.* Power. Love. Self-control. Three simple words, but yet three words that are very hard to find sometimes in our day-to-day lives (at least for me).

I am an elementary school teacher and I love my job! My students are my **why** and there is truly nothing else I would rather do each day. This year, however, has been a struggle - a struggle some days to find the power - the power of self-confidence, the power to say "no," the power to stand up for what is right, the power to put myself first sometimes. Some days it is a struggle to find love - love for my co-workers, love for my students, love for my job. Self-control has been especially difficult to come by this year - I find myself speaking before I think and what comes out is not always polite or helpful.

But yet - every day I get up and I go to work and I am happy and thankful to be there! God finds a way to fill my soul each morning with hope and curiosity and anticipation each day and even though I still doubt my power and my love and my self-control many mornings...I always know my **why**.

Take some time during this Advent season to remember the **why**. It could be the **why** for your job or the **why** for a specific relationship or the **why** for your faith. Take intentional time each day to thank God for the **whys** in your life. Know it is ok to struggle with the doubts and the questions sometimes because you can always come back to the **why**.

Susan Stephens is a teacher at Whitaker Elementary School. She is married to Brent and they have two sons - Luke, a Junior at Wofford College and Matthew, a Senior at RJ Reynolds HS. The Stephens family has been attending Ardmore Baptist for 15+ years and are all members of Ardmore Baptist. Her favorite memories of the Advent season are the Christmas Eve service and the traditions that she and her husband have passed on to their boys from their own childhoods.

Monday, December 20, 2021

Romans 5:1-5

We have been studying Joseph during this past trimester in Sunday School. It struck me how with whatever problems were sent Joseph's way, he always made the best of the situation. Joseph seemed to maintain the hope that God was in charge and good would always prevail.

My wife and I do a lot of visiting with the elderly and infirm of Ardmore. This ministry is both highly rewarding and uplifting, but also often depressing. So many people seem to have lost hope. They don't want to cooperate or do any of the things that might bring some sunshine into their lives. But then, other individuals have smiles on their faces and hope in their heart. They are a real inspiration.

It seems to me that the big difference in what we find among these elderly relates to making the best out of whatever circumstances life hands us. Joseph did not falter when life handed him a ton of bad circumstances. He prospered and conquered. In my life, I have had the joy of knowing Jesus since the age of nine and of being raised with love in a Christian home. I've had the joy of a wonderful marriage, the blessing of two children, and the joy of being able to make my living in a field I had wanted to work in since age fourteen. But, I have also had trials. Struggling to get a business going, facing and dealing with cancer, losing my job at the age of 60, and many other problems along the way.

I claim and cling to the words in Romans 5:1-5. As we go into the Advent season, my hope for you is that you make the best of whatever circumstances in which you find yourself. Remember, God loves you and hope is God's gift to us all.

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.” Romans 5:5

This devotion was written in 2003 by Tom Bernard, one of Ardmore's saints who died this past year. Tom and his wife, Ann, worked with our Home Ministry teams and both were life-long members here at Ardmore. Tom joined in 1943 and Ann in 1950.

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

Mark 1:1-3

One dictionary definition of “advent” is “the arrival of something important or awaited.” I’ve always considered the Advent season as a time for anticipation and preparation. I managed several shoe stores over the years and I had to be prepared for the Christmas shopping season. That involved getting the display windows ready with a new coat of seasonal paint and a new layer of seasonal carpet, along with the merchandise and Christmas decorations. The birth of Christ was, in a certain way, very important to shopkeepers.

Mark 1:1-3 contains scripture from Isaiah 40, which is the beginning of the second half of his prophecy. The first half was full of curses. The second half is full of blessings, in fact it is a prophetic summary of the New Testament.

Isaiah 40:3 is God telling the people to prepare themselves for the day of their deliverance from Babylon. Mark 1:3 refers to John the Baptist as the voice crying in the wilderness for us to prepare our minds for the Gospel of Jesus. Instead of retail displays, we are to “level the roads,” to prepare for Jesus’ entrance into our souls. In other words, we have to get into the right frame of mind to receive Jesus and His gospel.

During the pandemic, it appeared to be important for retail businesses to have “contactless” delivery. Fortunately, God came down at Christmas to contact us, to be with us in person. In Jeremiah 31:20, God says, “Israel you are my dearest son, the child I love best. Whenever I mention your name, I think of you with love.

My heart goes out to you; I will be merciful” (Good News Bible: Today’s English Version). God loved us so much that He spared not His own Son.

Bob Pfaff is retired after 44 years of retail and banking jobs. He and his wife, Fredericka, have been married 43 years. Bob was born and raised and lived most of his life in Winston-Salem. Fredericka and Bob have been members of Ardmore Baptist since December 2017.

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

Isaiah 35:1-10

There are times I have trouble relating to what I'm reading in the Bible, but this year, this passage speaks very clearly to me. Isaiah had been warning the people of Judah of judgment and suffering to come in the form of exile in Babylon, but in Chapter 35 he offers the hope of things to come.

We, too, need hope. We have all been affected by COVID, and it seems that we've lost confidence in our institutions, our relationships are frayed, and we are all just so tired. I often feel that we are caught in a spiritual desert. Everything feels bleak. There are dangers all around us, both physically and emotionally, and there does not seem to be a path out of our struggles.

How can we make it through this desert? Who will save us? Isaiah tells us "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come ... He will come to save you." Unlike the people of Judah to whom these words of encouragement were offered, we know how this prophecy is fulfilled. We know what it means to read that the blind will see, the deaf will hear, and the lame leap. We know who has prepared the way through this desert.

"O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel ..." As we go through the season of Advent, I am trying to prepare my heart to welcome our King, our Savior, and to celebrate that our hope rests in Him. As I focus on that, the desert does not seem so bleak. In fact, I start to see that the blossoms are already there and I feel ready to rejoice with joy and singing.

John Sanders has been a member of Ardmore Baptist Church for six years. He is married to Leigh Ann and they have three grown children, Katie (and her husband, Holden), Christian, and Grace. After retiring from the Navy, they were very happy to find a job, a home, and a wonderful church in Winston-Salem.

Thursday, December 23, 2021

John 1:1-14

When I was 14, a new musical sound made its way across the ocean and found a home in my Silvertone transistor radio where I listened to it in a small town where I lived, nestled in the mountains of Southwest Virginia. This new sound, created by the Beatles, became the soundtrack of my life.

For me, Christmas evokes the sound of *All You Need is Love*. What we all need is God's love, his unsparing, perfect love. And He gave it to us in the form of a beautiful baby boy. A baby! When babies are born, they have a need for attachment to another person. We need attachment to find security, to bond, joined heart and soul to another. All we need is love.

In the beginning, and in a barn, God presented to us our source of complete and perfect attachment. When we receive His love, we are made new, re-born, bonded, heart and soul to Him. Love is all we need.

What to do with such a perfect gift? We must show it to everyone, display our attachment to the world, full of mercy and good fruit, joy and peacekeeping, and let His Light shine through us. It must be Christmas, every day.

All we need is love. The Word is Love.

Susan Hampton has been a member of Ardmore since 1979, when she married Eddie. They have a son, David, who lives in Winston-Salem and a son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Libby, who live in Washington, DC. Susan has served in many of Ardmore's ministries, including teaching the 1st grade Sunday Bible Study class and looks forward each Christmas to sharing the Word with the children.

Friday, December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve - Luke 2:1-7

The Gospel of Luke begins the story of Jesus' birth by first telling us what time it is. "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria" (Luke 2:1-2). In the Bible, it is common to chart events on the calendar using whoever was in power at the time. My father still does this. Dad prides himself on keeping a daily rhythm of life and sticking to his plans. When I was recently visiting my parents' home, I marveled that my Dad still used the same notepads to write out his schedule each day. He smiled and said, "I've been using the same notepads since the Reagan administration."

Luke wants to place the story of Jesus' birth in a time and place, so he begins by saying, "These events took place during the Augustus administration and while Quirinius was governor." These were powerful men: Caesar Augustus was the first official Roman Emperor and he reigned for forty-one years and Quirinius was a well-respected tutor and former consul to the Emperor. These were men who were used to being the center of attention whenever they entered the room and who commanded respect across the Empire.

Yet, these are the only times they are mentioned in the entire Bible. They never come up again. Luke has reduced these two powerful men into simply footnotes used to mark the calendar. Because the story Luke is going to tell is about somebody far and above more important than a governor or emperor. This is a story about the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

In our own day and time, it is easy to become enmeshed in politics and to obsess over the players that jockey for our attention. But each Advent we eagerly anticipate and wait for the coming of our Lord who brings us gifts that no human leader could ever truly provide: *hope* for our anxious selves, *peace* for our hurting world, *joy* for our sad souls, and *love* that warms our cold hearts.

*May the wisdom of the Wonderful Counselor direct you,
The strength of the Mighty God protect you,
The love of the Everlasting Father embrace you,
The peace of the Prince of Peace surround you.*

Prayer

Glorious God, we thank you for sending us the ultimate gift in Jesus Christ. Help us to remember to not become obsessed with the games the world plays for power and prestige, but instead to place our trust in the Lord of Lord and the King of Kings. Amen.

Tyler Tankersley serves as the Senior Pastor of Ardmore Baptist Church and has done so since August 2019. His wife, Jessica, is an early childhood educator who works for Ardmore Baptist Preschool. Together they have three children: Henry (9), Owen (7), and Charlotte (4).

Merry Christmas



Drawing by Henry Tankersley, age 9, son of
Tyler & Jess Tankersley

Saturday, December 25, 2021

Christmas Day - Luke 2:8-21; Matthew 2:1-12

“Come and See”

The wait is finally over as Christmas morning has arrived! These weeks of anticipation have been building and we have now arrived at the day we have been waiting for. I imagine that in many households this morning, things started out fairly similarly with bleary-eyed parents awakened by a child or children, or maybe even a younger child waking up an older brother or sister and urging them to come and see - to come and see what is new, what gifts and surprises are now before their eyes.

In both of these Gospel passages on the birth of Jesus, we find people who were eager to come and see, to see this baby who was born to be Savior, Messiah, Master, and King. In Luke's Gospel, the shepherds were in the middle of a seemingly ordinary night when things suddenly became anything but ordinary. An angel brought the news of their Savior's birth, and along with a choir of other angels encouraged them to come and see, and so they did. They ran to Bethlehem and saw Mary, Joseph, and the newborn Jesus with their own eyes and they also told others what they had experienced and who they had seen.

Likewise, in Matthew's Gospel, the scholars from the East were drawn to come and see this newborn King of the Jews with their own eyes and to worship him. So they followed the star until they found the child in the arms of his mother Mary. They could hardly contain themselves and were overcome as they knelt down and worshiped him, presenting him with the gifts they had brought.

My hope for all of us today is that we, too, can experience the enthusiasm and eagerness displayed by children, shepherds, and wise men and have eyes to see how the love of God, wrapped in flesh, coming into this world as a newborn baby changed everything, because seeing is indeed believing.

Adam Horton serves as a co-teacher of the Adult 3 class and as a deacon at Ardmore Baptist Church. He and Amanda have been married for 18 years and have two sons, Everett (13) and Whittaker (8). After spending nearly 10 years in Texas, the Hortons returned to their home state of North Carolina 9 years ago and have been part of Ardmore Baptist ever since.

Many thanks to our 2021 Advent writers:

Leslie Baldwin
Chip Brock
Gina Brock
Bill Brown
David Fitzgerald
DeNeal Fowler
Amy Gallaher
Alan Gill
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Adam Horton
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Lisa Lowther
Dane Martin
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Bob Pfaff
Cecil Price
Ann Ray
Lee Ritchie
John Sanders
Randy Steen
Warren Steen
Susan Stephens
Juliana Sullivan
Tyler Tankersley
Christy Van Nostrand

Advent Worship Services & Events

Sunday, November 28 - First Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.Worship
Wonderful Counselor (Luke 1:46-56)

Sunday, December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent

10:45 a.m. (joint service).....Worship through Music
Handel's *Messiah* presented by the Adult Choir, Guest
Instrumentalists, and Choral Scholars

Wednesday, December 8

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.Missions Symposium

Saturday, December 11

2:00 p.m.Ardmore Neighborhood Advent

Sunday, December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.Worship
Everlasting Father (John 14:8-14)

Bright Christmas

Friday, December 17

9:00 a.m.ABC Preschool Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.Worship
Prince of Peace (Mark 4:35-41)

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.Children's Christmas Eve Service

5:00 p.m.Christmas Eve Communion
God of Outcasts (Luke 2:8-20)