

Prepare

December 1 - 24, 2019

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight” – Matthew 3:3

This Advent season we explore what it means to prepare. What it means to ready ourselves to receive a vulnerable child, God made flesh, into our lives and world. What it means to prepare to respond as God wills to the most vulnerable among us. In worship and in devotions at home we will Prepare to welcome and be Christ in the world.

December 1 – Hope

“come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!” – Isaiah 2:5

Matthew 24:36-44; Isaiah 2:1-5

We might not know what is next, which is why we prepare. Jesus challenges us to stay awake, to keep our lives ready for what is coming, because what is coming is outside of our wildest imaginings. God’s Word will touch the entire world, healing and transforming.

December 8 – Prayer

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight” – Matthew 3:3

Matthew 3:1-12; Romans 15:4-13

John invites people towards God, to turn their lives around and reorient into God’s ideal. This change doesn’t come in a moment; it is not sustained by intent alone. We prepare to be transformed in conversation with God, in prayer. Prayers of words and prayers of action. In prayer we open ourselves truthfully and fully to God.

December 15 – Change

“Go and tell...what you hear and see” – Matthew 11:4

Matthew 11:2-11; Isaiah 35:1-10

What do you see and hear? God is doing a new thing. The world around us is changing, yet sometimes it is hard to notice among all that has yet to transform. We are called to live more deeply into what God is doing, to go and tell all that we have seen and heard so that the desert can bloom and wondrous life be known by all.

December 22 – Live

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid” – Matthew 1:20

Matthew 1:18-25; Isaiah 7:10-16

Joseph is just living his life, and it's looking to be a good one. He has established himself and is about to be married. Then, he finds himself at a crossroads. He can keep living the life he thought he wanted or he can live the life God calls him to, a life that will lead him into places and alongside people he never expected.

December 24 – In the Flesh

“to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah.” – Luke 2:11

We have been waiting and preparing. We have been turning our lives so that we can live into God's promise. Now, that promise is here. The Word made flesh; God incarnate. Jesus has been born, Emmanuel, God with us. How will we embrace this child in our lives?