



# Embracing Advent

*The word advent, from Latin, means "the coming." For centuries, Advent has been a time of spiritual reflection as well as cheer and anticipation.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is hard for me to believe we are once again in the final month of this year! I really believe the old saying is true –the older we get, the faster time seems to fly by! But not only does time seem to pass by more quickly, we also seem to be in a world where each year seems to be more traumatic and problematic than most of those in the past. Our world seems to be so complicated and troubled. Many, many areas of our world involve seemingly unsolvable conflicts. So in the midst of all these trials and troubles, I find myself longing more and more for the permanent, eternal solution offered by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As we enter the final month of the year according to our Roman calendar, we also enter another season on the Christian calendar – the season of Advent. Sadly, this precious and most important season is vastly overshadowed and practically forgotten in the rush to shop, shop, shop for Christmas presents for friends and family, plan parties and holiday meals, and the list goes on.

Thankfully, many Christians somehow also find the time to concentrate on various aspects of the first arrival of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Even in the face of “picky” arguments attempting to prove that this is not the exact date, or even the time of year, the Savior, however, was born, and the majority still insist the fact of Jesus’ birth as more important than the “when.” This is our focus and we recall the many predictions of His arrival centuries before it occurred. Furthermore, we embrace the importance and significance of the first appearance of the prophesied Messiah. One of the most often quoted of these is the words from Isaiah 9:6 immortalized each year by the stirring words of Handel’s “Messiah”. “Unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

I have always felt it rather sad, and even somewhat bizarre, that the very nation of people he was sent to, have for the most part, rejected Him from the time of His appearance down to our day. But thankfully, there are also priceless promises in Scripture declaring that eventually, they too will “see the light” and fully accept Him for who he was and is.

My hope and prayer is that all of you will make the time to remember, honor and be thankful for the One who *is* the “reason for the season”.

Praise Him always!

*Larry*

*Senior Pastor*

