

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE
A DAILY DEVOTION
SENT DIRECTLY TO
YOUR INBOX
NOVEMBER 28
THRU
DECEMBER 24

ILLUMINATE

2021

EMAIL
PASTORKRIS@TABLELIFECHURCH.ORG

OR VISIT
FACEBOOK.COM/ADVENTDEVOTIONALGOD

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Order of Worship
28 November 2021
The First Sunday of Advent

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome
Worship in Song
Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Worship in Song

We Listen to the Scriptures

Prayer
Sermon Series: Illuminate
Sermon: "Waiting in the Dark"

We Come to the Table

Prayer of Confession and Consecration
The Lord's Prayer
We Eat and Drink Together
We Celebrate the Eucharist in Song

We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life
Doxology
Blessing and Sending

NEW HOPE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*Collecting items for families in need
Nov. 14th through Dec. 5th*

Visit the
Christmas tree
in the church
lobby to pick
up a tag for
needed gifts



Questions?
Contact the
church office
(717) 774-6444
or
office@tablelifechurch.org

meet * eat * discuss * pray

ADVENT TABLE GROUPS

The week of December 12

Sign up in the lobby or email
office@tablelifechurch.org

A poster for Christmas Caroling. It features a red background with white snowflakes and silhouettes of trees. In the center, four people are singing into microphones. At the bottom, there is a green banner with white text.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Meet in
Sanctuary

**DECEMBER 15TH
6:00 PM**

Hot Chocolate
and Cookies!

Our mission is to learn the way of Jesus together as we invite others to join us at His Table.

Our Common Practices

We Gather

- We gather for worship more often than not.
- We gather in smaller groups to connect, learn, and grow.
- We create hospitable space for one another.

We Grow

- We attend the means of grace daily. (i.e. We attend to the presence of God through Scripture reading and meditation, prayer on behalf of others and myself, breath prayer, spiritual reading and study...).
- We nurture our faith.
- We attend to relationships that promote growth.
- We develop and learn as human beings made in the image of God.

We Give

- We are a generous people who give our time and resources to the mission of God and the world.
- We tithe as the means through which our community enjoys fiscal health so as to minister generously.

We Go

- We follow Jesus into the world as His healing presence.
- We help the vulnerable among us.
- We go into the world offering Jesus' invitation to gather at His Table.

Illuminate

"Waiting in the Dark"

Pastor Kris Beckert

What is something about Christmas you just can't wait for?

I. Advent series: "Illuminate"

- *phótizó*—
- *John 1:5. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it*
- Reminds us that even in darkness, there is _____ breaking through.

II. Advent & the Christmas Story begin with

- Waiting for Jesus at _____
- Waiting for Jesus' _____

Luke 2:25-38 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

"Advent means being able to wait. Waiting is an art our impatient age has forgotten"

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

III. The Gift of Waiting

1. We recognize our _____

- Simeon & Anna yearned for _____
- Sometimes we know what, sometimes we don't
- *Sehnsucht* (German)—

2. We depend on God's _____

- Simeon & Anna's history—
- *chronos* (Greek)—
- *kairos* (Greek)—

3. We don't miss the _____

- *benedicere* (Latin)—
- Blessing includes us AND extends beyond us
- We hear & claim blessing through _____ & _____

Big Idea: _____

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!



1. What area of life currently is an "Advent" for you-- a time of waiting in the dark? Why is it so tough to wait?
2. Has there ever been a time you have experienced the gift of *Sehnsucht*? What was it like?
3. How did Simeon and Anna manage to wait so long? What does trusting in God's timing look like?
4. Is it difficult for you to bless someone else and/or to receive a blessing? Why? How does an awareness of blessing change your perception of waiting and God's presence?
5. How have you experienced growth through delayed gratification?
6. What has God been illuminating this Advent?

If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email pastorkris@tablelifechurch.org or call 717-774-6444 to set up an appointment.