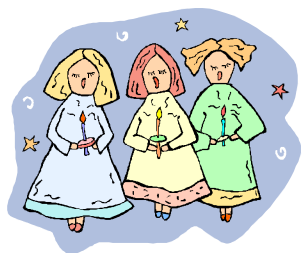


Upcoming Events

- Dec. 18** **Advent Sunday #4** (Love)
Dec. 18 **Kids' Church:** Special Christmas Activities
Dec. 25 **Christmas Sunday**—11:00 AM Celebration
Jan. 21-27 **Winter Reunion**

Celebrate and Sing!

Glory to God in the highest. Join us at 11:00 AM on Christmas morning for a service of stories and songs celebrating the birth of our Savior. We will not follow our regular schedule that day (no 9:15 worship or classes) but hope to see many if not all in the sanctuary at 11:00.



To help us prepare, please let Pastor Jon or any member of the Pastorate know whether or not you expect to be at the Christmas service. Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!

The Reason for the Season

You hear it every year...the annual discussion about Christmas and how the religious holiday has become too secular, too centered on shopping, and not about Jesus' birth. While most Christians might agree, it can be hard to figure out what to do about it.

How, exactly, do you put Christ back in Christmas? Especially if you're already knee-deep in decorations, cookie-baking, and struggling to put up the Christmas tree. Try some of these*:

- Buy a gift for a needy child
- Invite a friend to church (give them a spiritual boost)
- Follow the liturgical calendar. Remember, Advent is the BEGINNING followed by Epiphany, Lent, Easter, etc.

During the hustle and bustle of the coming weeks, don't forget the coming Savior and give Him the honor and glory of Christmas.

*adapted from "21 Ways to Keep Christ in Christmas"

Advent Prayer for the Week *Watching the Sunrise*

Thank you. What a gift this morning from you as I watched the blazing sunrise through a cloudy winter sky. It is hard getting up these dark mornings, Lord, and yet you gift me with a sight that I miss at other times of year, when the weather is warmer and the sun rises before I get up. I stared out the window at the red and purple light, gloriously framed by the gold of the rising sun. "Be still, and know that I am God" was the only thing that came to me. I watched in silence, filled with a sense of your presence in my life.

I am filled with gratitude this day for such a treasure and could feel it and see it as a gift from you. Thank you for your love. Today, let me carry a sense of how much you love me to send me such a gift. Let that awareness of your love change the way I treat others today. Let me be more reverent in the irritations of the day. I ask your help to move through my errands and holiday preparations today with peace and a sense of your sunrise in my heart. Your glory fills my spirit and I want only to give thanks with my life this day.

--from Creighton Universities Online Ministries

He is the Reason for the Season, so...

Keep Christ In Christmas