

Isaiah 9: 1 – 7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
December 1st, 2019
First Sunday of Advent

Morning Service:

Isaiah 9: 1 – 7

The Hope of the Prophets

1. Jesus Is the King the Prophets Promised.
2. He Fulfills Not Only All They Promised, But All They Were.
3. The Hope of the Prophets Is Our Hope Still.

We have seen a great light, the Light of the World. He is the only King who deserves absolute devotion. He has spoken. He has come. What will you do? Who will you believe? Do you know His hope? You can right now. Have you forgotten? Remember and live. Live the hope within us and speak it to others, everywhere.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 13: 1 – 19

Seeking the City to Come

We Should Confidently Seek Jerusalem through:

1. Confidence in Christ.
2. Lives Reflecting the Gospel.
3. Singing Christ's Praise on the Way.

Kingdom ethics are described here as a reflection of our confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Right living is the *result* of Christ's sacrifice for us, not the cause or repayment for it. How can we together seek the city to come with the totality of our lives and community together? We must trust Christ at His Word and so live by faith.

The First Week of Advent—December 1-7

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Sunday AM

READ **Isaiah 9:1-7; Second Peter 1:16-21**. DISCUSS, God is accomplishing our redemption in time and space. So we have to wait as His perfect plan unfolds. Why is waiting so hard? How can we do it better together? THANK God for His faithfulness.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passages: **Hebrews 13:1-19; Revelation 21:1-4**. DISCUSS, How does what we do demonstrate what we truly believe? How can we help one another? PRAISE God for His faithfulness.

Monday-Saturday

1. READ Candle Lighting Litany—The Prophets' Candle

Leader: Why do we light the Advent candles?

Family: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."

Leader: What is the meaning of the first lighted candle?

Family: The first lighted candle is a reminder of the Light of Promise given to God's People through His prophets.

Leader: Who were the prophets?

Family: The prophets were men called by God to speak His Word to the People of Israel. At times the prophets spoke promises made by God that would come true many years in the future. Often the promises related to the coming of the Messiah, God's Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Leader: What do the prophets say concerning this Light?

Family: Isaiah said, "The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them the light has shined. For unto us a child is born, to us a child is given. And the government will be upon His shoulders, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

2. LIGHT the first Advent Candle.

3. READ aloud Isaiah 9:1 – 7 (see insert).

4. SING Go Tell It on the Mountain.

Second Peter 1:16 – 21

“For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,’ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

Advent—Awaiting the Coming Messiah

Advent is a time of waiting. It reminds us that Christ is coming just as He promised. It is also important how we wait. Are we just killing time anticipating His return or is there something we are supposed to be doing as we wait? How should the hope within us inform our minds and enflame our hearts as we wait? What if it doesn't? God has given us His Word, Spirit, and Church to help us rightly understand and apply this hope in life. Want more information? Call Pastor Doug @ (802) 457-1304.

Please see *FCCW 2019 Advent Devotional* for more information.

December 19 Christmas Dinner and Pageant @ 5:30pm

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7pm