

All Creation Waits

ADVENT WITH NATURE



Advent Devotionals for 2025

ARDMORE BAPTIST CHURCH

DAILY READINGS

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PASTOR TYLER WRITES...

Every year in the Tankersley house, there is one present we never wrap. Our Beagle-Basset Hound, Rosie, always gets a tub of her favorite treats placed under the tree alongside the other gifts. One year I (jokingly!) told my kids that we would just skip getting Rosie's present. My daughter Charlotte indignantly turned on me and said, "Dada, Christmas is for Rosie too, you know."

Charlotte is exactly right. Sometimes we lack the vision to embrace the fact that the Bible speaks of salvation in cosmic scopes.

This year at Ardmore, our Advent theme is **"All Creation Waits."** The Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 8 that "all creation waits with eager longing" for God's redemption to be revealed. That means it's not just people who are waiting—mountains, oceans, birds, and, yes, even our dogs are part of this cosmic anticipation. Advent invites us to join that chorus of hopeful waiting, to pay attention to the world around us and the world within us, and to remember that God's work of renewal is still unfolding.

Each devotion in these pages was written by a member of our Ardmore family. You'll find stories of faith, hope, and humor; moments of joy and sorrow; and reflections on how Christ's light still breaks into our everyday lives. These are the voices of our community—people who have discovered that even in the middle of December chaos, God's presence can surprise us like light sneaking under the door.

As you make your way through this season, I hope these reflections will give you permission to slow down, to breathe deeply, and to listen for the whispers of grace in ordinary moments. Light a candle. Pour another cup of coffee. Read and pray and laugh a little. And remember: we are not just counting the days until Christmas.

We are learning to wait well—for the God who came to us in Jesus, who is with us even now, and who will come again to make all things new.

And if Rosie has already figured that out—patiently waiting under the tree for her gift—then maybe she's a better theologian than I thought.

Come, Lord Jesus.

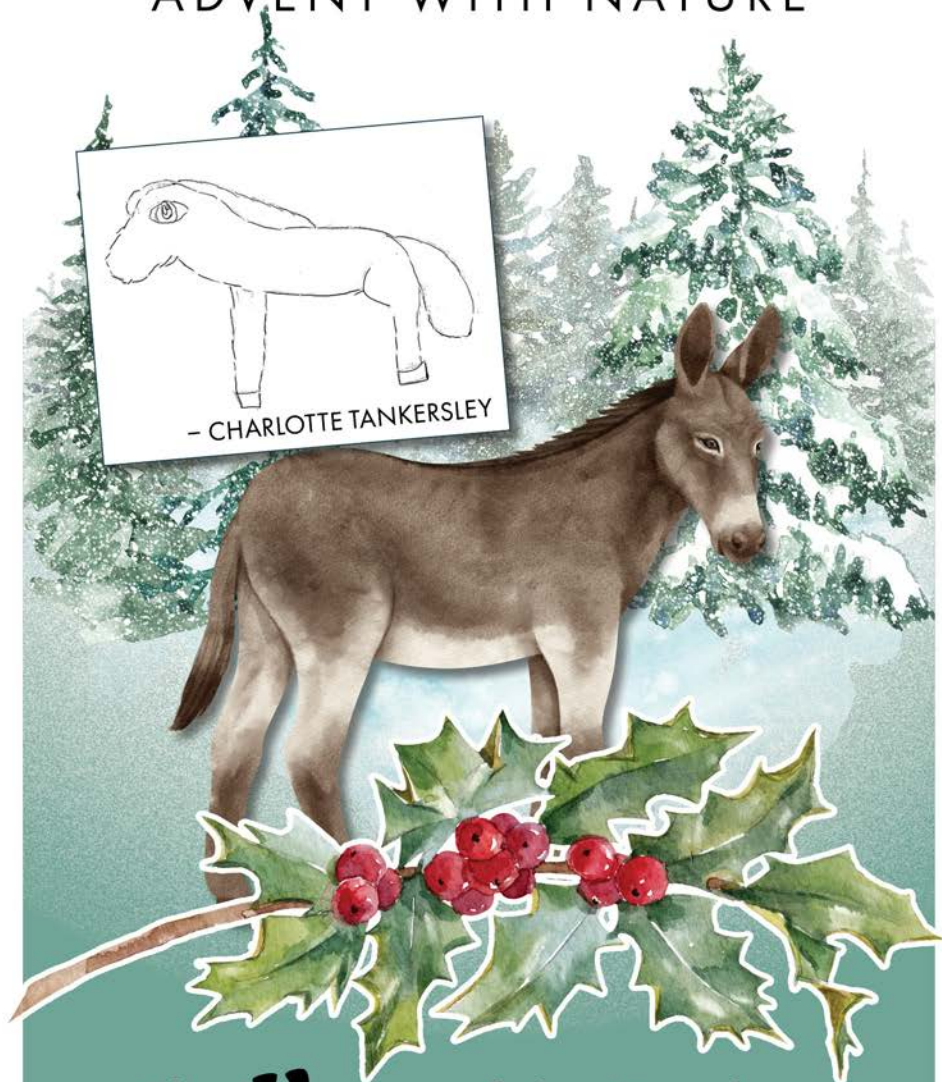
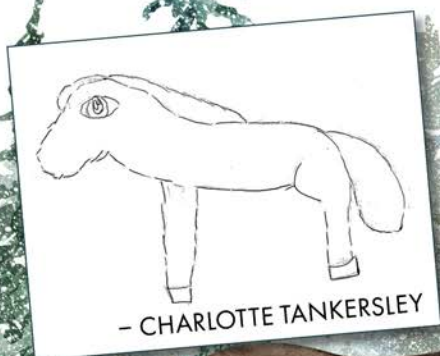
Come and dwell with us.



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

All Creation Waits

ADVENT WITH NATURE



The **Hope** of the Donkey

ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

Romans 5:1-5

When I was a little girl, I remember watching my mother make yeast rolls every year for Christmas. The making and eating of bread draws us in—it's one of those sacred rhythms that engages all our senses and requires time. I can still picture the dough resting under a towel, seemingly still, yet quietly alive.

There's something miraculous about watching bread rise. Flour, water, salt, and yeast appear ordinary, but with warmth and patience, something new begins to form. The yeast works invisibly, filling the dough with life until it becomes light and ready to share.

Hope works the same way.

Paul reminds us that hope grows through process, through suffering, perseverance, and character. Like yeast in the dough, God's Spirit moves within us, transforming what feels flat or lifeless into something vibrant. Even when we cannot see it, hope is rising.

Advent is that season of holy waiting. The first candle we light, the Candle of Hope, glows like the warmth that activates the yeast. It reminds us that waiting is not wasted time. Christ came once into our world, and he will come again. Until then, his Spirit continues to work quietly in our hearts, expanding faith and deepening love.

So this season, when you bake or break bread, remember: God's hope is rising within you—alive, patient, and ready to be shared.

PRAYER: *God of Hope,
As yeast makes bread rise, let your Spirit lift our hearts.
Work within us through this season of waiting, that we may look for
and expect your grace for each of us. Amen.*

LEE RITCHIE is Associate Pastor to Children and Senior Adults and has been privileged to serve the people of Ardmore Baptist Church since 2015. She gets to do life with her husband, Jason, and their children, Warren and Mary Margaret.



Isaiah 2:1-5

“A BETTER DAY IS COMING”

The Advent season of 1978 brought difficult losses to the Mullen family. Hope was in short supply and we were overtaken by grief, fear and brokenness. Little did I know that hope was on the horizon, just around the bend as we said in West Virginia. By Advent of 1979 God was making all things new, reaching out through people who cared to help us renew our joy and rediscover peace.

Isaiah declared God's promised hope for the people of Judah in the midst of deepening despair. In today's passage, they were besieged by an Assyrian army who threatened their survival. They had become unfaithful and lost their trust in God.

Even in their darkest hours God still had a future for them. Isaiah envisioned a time when God would bring a better day of lasting peace. Combative people from all nations would come to Jerusalem to learn the ways of God. He would be a peace-maker, teaching people to reconcile their hostilities and heal their brokenness.

A land decimated by war would become fertile soil. People would transform instruments of destruction like swords and spears into tools for peace. They would make plowshares and pruning hooks, providing food for people living in peace.

Isaiah, knowing the difficulties of making that vision real, called the people to renewed faithfulness. He challenged them to walk in God's light, to live like peace had already arrived.

Christians look back and know that Isaiah's prophecy was initiated with the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. When he returns as King of kings, the glorious promise of unending peace and ultimate hope will be fully known.

God invites us to hold onto hope and trust his promise that a better day of peace is coming. For you. For me. Indeed for our world. While we wait with hopeful expectation, we can glimpse the promise even today as we practice the healing ways of Jesus. As the song goes, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

PRAYER: *Almighty God our Father, in the midst of our fears and struggles thank you for the promise that a better day is coming. Help us trust the Prince of Peace, follow his ways, and live with confident hope this Advent season. Amen.*

PAUL MULLEN and his wife, Bonnie, have been members of Ardmore Baptist Church since 1981. He retired after a career in hospital ministry and enjoys teaching Sunday School, reading history and playing golf. They have one son, John, an Ardmore member since the Cradle Roll 38 years ago.

Psalm 122

"HOUSTON, WE MIGHT BE OKAY"

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

"Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem." PSALM 122:1-2

Advent is a season of anticipation, but not always in calm or comfort. Sometimes, like the crew of *Apollo 13*, we find ourselves in crisis, unsure how, or if we'll make it home. When the oxygen tank exploded and the mission changed from moon landing to survival, hope wasn't a luxury. It was a necessity.

Psalm 122 begins with joy: "I was glad when they said to me..." Not because the journey was easy, but because the destination was sacred. The psalmist rejoices in the movement toward God's presence, toward peace, toward restoration. And then, in verse 2, the shift: "Our feet are standing..." The journey has landed. The hope has held. The gates of Jerusalem - the house of the Lord are beneath their feet.

That's the heartbeat of Advent. We're not promised smooth sailing; we're promised that God is with us in the chaos. In *Apollo 13*, engineers and astronauts worked together, improvising solutions with duct tape and grit. They didn't give up. They adapted. They believed. Advent hope is like that: not passive, but active. Not naive, but resilient. We light candles not because the darkness is gone, but because the Light is coming. And we keep moving toward the house of the Lord, trusting that God is already working the solution.

PRAYER: *God of rescue and resilience, thank You for being present in the crisis. As I journey through Advent, help me to hold onto hope—not because everything is easy, but because You are faithful. Guide me toward Your peace, and let Your light lead me home. Amen.*

"Houston, we're at the gate. Our craft is a little beat up, but we're here, and we're ready to come home."

JOSH MILLER is married to Anabel. Together they have three boys – James (11), Sebastian (7), and Santiago (4).



Matthew 24:36-44

“WAKE UP! KEEP AWAKE! BE READY!”

Matthew 24:36-44 tells us that the Lord is coming, and we need to be aware, to wake up, and to be ready.

As a child, I looked forward to Christmas morning knowing that daddy would gently shake me awake to let me know that it was time to get up. I would pad barefoot on the cold hardwood floor to the living room where he had already stoked the fire that was warming the hearth. Daddy would give me a cup of coffee heavily laced with fresh cream and then he and I would stand silently just looking at the lights on the Christmas tree. Side by side we waited in anticipation for dawn to break, for the house to begin to stir, for the smells of my mother cooking sausage and eggs, and for my younger brother to run noisily through the house yelling, “It’s Christmas! It’s Christmas!”

Advent is the first season of the Christian year, the period used by Christian churches to celebrate the life of Jesus. It spans from his divine conception and virgin birth in Bethlehem, through his childhood and early years, to his public ministry of teaching, performing miracles, and gathering disciples.

As Christians, we are called to live as Jesus taught us, seeking justice, mercy, and spending time with God. Jesus himself said that even he did not know the hour nor the day when God would bring all things to an end. If we are to live well and enjoy an abundant life, we must remain awake and always be ready by doing the things and living the kind of lives that we know will be pleasing to God when Jesus returns.

Wake up! Keep awake! Be ready!

PRAYER: *Heavenly Father, help us to be ready, to clear away distractions, and to wait with expectation, not because we know when to expect the return of Jesus, but because we know that His coming means life, everlasting life. Amen.*



ANN RAY has served as Deacon for Ardmore Baptist Church since 2024. Ann loves reading, a good cup of coffee, and making Chrismons. She is married to Andy who loves all things music and is the Sanctuary Choir president. Together they have two sons: David and John and two grandchildren: Gracie and Cole.

Psalm 42

“HOPE ARMY LAW”

*O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie:
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The Everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
– Lyrics by Phillips Brooks*

Hope, powered by our Christian faith, sustains us in the hardest of times. In my life’s most challenging time, prayer and hope brought me through.

When I was seven, I fell off a wall and sustained a severe blow to my abdomen. That evening, my condition worsened significantly, and my parents rushed me to the hospital.

My appendix had ruptured. The medical staff removed my appendix and drained all the gangrene it could, but the blunt-talking surgeon told my parents all we could do was to have faith and hope. The next twelve hours would be critical, and my family was going to have to “pray me through it.” Sustained prayer by my family and my mom’s personal Prayer Army began.

I was in a coma for two days. I was so near death, with a nine-inch scar to prove it. I stayed in the hospital for several days. I came home from the hospital the day before Christmas Eve. Even as a kid, I remember the sheer joy of just coming home.

My mother and father cried and cried with each gift I opened that Christmas morning. Even my pestering older siblings cried. Hope, through faith, came through when it just as easily could have gone the other way.

PRAYER: *The Psalmist tells us in Psalm 42, “Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.”*

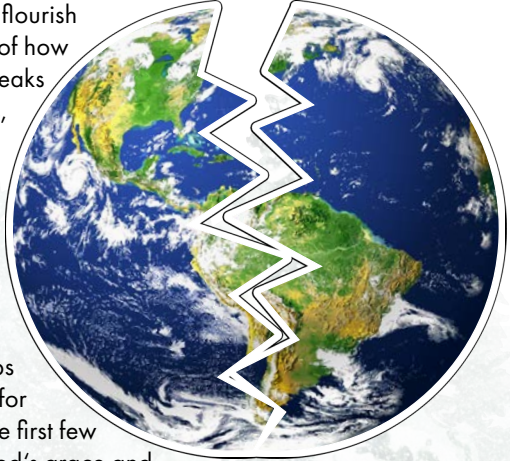
We are a prayer army, you and I, like my mother’s prayer army so many years ago. Hope on the move. Amen.

MIKE WELLS and his wife, Janet, have been members of ABC since 2003. He is a lawyer in the private practice in Winston-Salem. He team teaches with other ABC members “The Gathering” SS class. As a hobby he writes short pieces on lessons learned as a lawyer over the years. (On the Way to the Courthouse.) Janet is a retired elementary school teacher who taught and put Mike through law school, and after when their oldest child started college. They have three adult children, and they have seven grandchildren.

Isaiah 64: 1-9

“HOPE IN A BROKEN WORLD”

As division and violence continue to flourish in our world, I am quickly reminded of how hope can be silenced and anxiety wreaks havoc within ourselves, relationships, and in the world. If you're anything like me, anxiety makes me irritable and I try to establish control where I can. This often leads to making my own plan and putting God in the passenger seat. As we go through this Advent season, we are blissfully awaiting Christ but this passage helps us to be mindful of the present need for God as he continues to shape us. The first few verses express a strong desire for God's grace and justice to physically shake the world that is broken. I'd be lying if I said, I've never hoped God would shake some sense into a person or situation that was making me angry. I'm humbly reminded of just how quickly God would be shaking some sense into me. This same humility was acknowledged within our passage, along with the continual awareness that we are in dire need of God daily. In the eighth verse, we are given the imagery of Christ being the potter and each one of us being the clay at the work of his hand. This reminds me of a singular pottery class I took at Sawtooth last year. I look back on my creation and I'm amazed that a tiny blob of nothingness was shaped into a beautiful vase by a non-artistic person seeking to find a hobby. As I look amongst my church family, I am reminded of how much greater of a potter Christ is. This is our source of hope: that we are his creation. He has not abandoned us nor our broken world, but is actively working, shaping, and re-shaping us to show up in love, to listen, and to challenge each day. This Advent, we are not called to passively wait, but with this hope, to prepare, encourage, and participate.



PRAYER: *Wonderful God, through whom all things were formed from nothing, we give you thanks for the hope you provide for us. Help us to look within and be willing to be molded by You to love our neighbors and ourselves better. Amen.*

HANNAH PRILLAMAN is a mental health therapist at Kintegra Health. She enjoys belly laughs, a good cup of coffee, and is always down for a sweet treat. She is happily married to Josh Prillaman.

Hebrews 11:1-3

July 30, 1977. It was a Saturday morning and I was 16 years old, babysitting next door. My 20 year old brother, Randy, was home for the summer between his sophomore and junior years at Carolina. An experienced mountain climber, he walked over to see if I wanted him, his girlfriend, my middle brother, and two others to wait for me to go climbing at Crowder mountain, just outside Charlotte, where we lived. I was in a mood, having recently fought with my boyfriend in typical teenage fashion, and said no. I would not see Randy again. He fell that day.

Randy's journal reflected how his faith had deepened immensely in the two years prior to his death. My family took great comfort in that. Our hearts were broken but our hope never faltered. Both my parents are gone now and while I know heaven is nothing I could ever fathom, I love to imagine a reunion we not only hoped for, but absolutely knew would happen.

Our personal lives bear the scars of wounds shallow and deep. Our world suffers in ways we can't help and in ways we can never picture an end to. And yet I am sometimes struck breathless at the knowledge that God, the one who created and cares for the universe, also cares about little old nobody me. My hope is in the hands of God, who controls it all.

PRAYER: *God of all creation, thank you for loving me. Thank you for holding me up when I feel like falling. Help me remember every day that you care about me, personally. Thank you that my hope is not in the fleeting sparkliness of the world but in your eternal power. Amen*

DONNA BISSETTE has been a member of Ardmore since 1987, when she married Steve here. Their three boys were baptized here, including their youngest, Randy's namesake. They love having two grandsons, hiking, and spending time in the mountains. She also won't turn down a good game of Bridge.



SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

All Creation Waits

ADVENT WITH NATURE



The *Peace* of the Wolf

ISAIAH 11:6-9

Isaiah 11:6-9

We are animal people at my house, meaning we love animals. Currently, we have English bulldog cousins Oscar and Felix (yes, the odd couple), orange cat Peaches, and our diva cat, Mittens. Living as part of our family at one time or another over the years has been 3 dogs, 5 cats, and 3 guinea pigs. And you wouldn't believe how many times one of us has had to say to the other, "No, we can't take him home. We don't need another cat." Often, we're watching cute animal videos on YouTube or TikTok or see a cute video and share it with one another later. We joke about having a "raff" (giraffe) or a "funt" (elephant) that would live in our backyard. Rebecca is even studying to be a veterinarian.

So, naturally we're fans of this vision from Isaiah of the "peaceable kingdom." How often have we seen videos of wolves or leopards or lions and wished we could pet them. How fun it would be to cuddle up with a bear and take a nap. (Personally, you can keep the asp. I am not a fan of snakes.) Of course, none of this is currently possible. These wild animals are much too dangerous. But Isaiah gives us a glimpse of the world to come, a world in which God restores peace and every created thing lives in harmony without fear.

In our current world climate, peace is hard to come by. Fear seems to be the "emotion du jour." Yet, Isaiah shows us in the words of Psalm 30, "Weeping may endure for the night; but joy comes in the morning." We pray, "Lord, let there be peace." And the Lord says, "There will be."

All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.

— Julian of Norwich

PRAYER: Lord, let there be peace on earth. Amen.

GINA BROCK serves as the Executive Pastor. She is married to Chip and they have one daughter, Rebecca. They dream of having a zoo in their backyard.



"PEACEABLE KINGDOM"
by Edward Hicks

John 14:25-31

“HOLY SURRENDER”

It was time. Only 20 minutes until close and if I didn't go now, maybe I never would. Armed with a noisy anxiety and the encouraging words of my 11 year old son, I was ready to do it. I was going to ride the rollercoaster Copperhead Strike at Carowinds, braving drops, inversions, loops, and the (likely) potential of a motion-sickness induced headache.

We got strapped in and our restraints checked. Owen and I did our special handshake that we do before we embark on a ride together and then: we were off.

In that moment, I realized the beauty of surrender. No matter what I physically or emotionally felt on that ride, there was nothing that I could do other than to acknowledge the reality, hold on tight, and trust in the provided safety of the ride.

In today's passage, Jesus is speaking to his disciples, giving them words of encouragement as he hurtles toward his own prophetic destiny. He informs them that the Holy Spirit, or The Companion as one Bible translation I was reading put it, would be with them. He then says these words:

“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid.”

Our modern-day world teaches us that we should be able to strong-arm any situation into one that we can control. Maybe if we make the right to-do list, are just productive enough, know the right people, or have enough money we can avoid all the things that would disrupt our peace.

But in our own experience, we know this isn't true. So many things can either chip away or steamroll any sense our own personal peace. Yet as Christians, we know that we are never alone. In the joy as much as in the hardships, the Holy Spirit is by our sides, reminding us of the bigger picture, of what happens beyond our own immediate perspective.

As the ride made it's final twists and turns and came to a stop before we would unload, Owen turned to me, “Mom! I loved that! Can we go again?!”

“You bet!”

PRAYER: *God of all Creation, giver of The Companion, help us to live in the kind of Holy Surrender that leads to Your true PEACE.*

JESS TANKERSLEY and her family have been at Ardmore Baptist Church since 2019 when her husband was called as the Senior Pastor. She loves her work as Assistant Director of Ardmore Baptist Preschool. She enjoys reading, all four seasons, cooking, volunteering at a local food pantry, and playing minivan taxi for Henry (13), Owen (11), and Charlotte (8).

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

It is no secret that the world, coast to coast, is lacking peace. From regional hegemonies to political unrest within cities, this generation has seen its fair share of conflict.

One might be tempted to literally “throw in the towel” and give up seeking peace for the nations of the world, but we can nonetheless be encouraged by the psalmist in chapter 72 speaking prophetically of the coming Prince of peace, Who alone by Himself and by divine mandate from God His Father, would usher in lasting peace conveyed by His righteous justice. It is equally encouraging to know that this global peace originates from the heart of God Our Father, and is conveyed to the world through Jesus Christ His Son.

Never since the history of the world has there been a global autocracy built upon peace through righteousness. From the prayers of this psalm, we do have much to look forward to in His coming kingdom; mountains and the little hills becoming peace resorts, the poor receiving justice, every oppressor being disarmed while the children of the needy receive adequate care and attention.

In the abundance of this peace, people will also live in healthy fear of God from sun-up to sundown throughout all generations and dwellings of men. Righteousness, a rare commodity in today’s world, will be celebrated with divine dividends.

Again, looking at the world today, this future peaceful prospect might seem distant, maybe even unreal. We, however, can rest-assured in the faithfulness of God Who once He promises, always fulfills.

It should fill us all with a sense of realistic expectation and cause us to pray, “MARANATHA!”

PRAYER: *Heavenly Father, we believe in Your word and trust You to fulfill Your promise of the coming kingdom of peace of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray that even here and now, You may let Your righteousness wash over the earth and Your peace flow globally like a river. AMEN!*



STEPHEN OLAYINKA has been attending Ardmore Baptist Church for six years with his parents; Wally and Matilda and siblings, Stephanie and Simon.

Matthew 3:1-12

Advent often feels like the on-ramp to Christmas—a season that gets swept up in decorations, shopping lists, and the first notes of holiday music echoing through stores. But Advent is not Christmas. It's a time of preparation, of waiting, of longing.

The passage I've been given—Matthew 3:1-12—introduces us to John the Baptist, a wild prophet in the wilderness, calling people to repentance and baptizing them in the Jordan River. His words are bold, even harsh. He warns the Pharisees and Sadducees of judgment and speaks of one who is coming—one mightier than he—whose sandals he is not worthy to carry.

It's easy to read this passage and imagine Jesus arriving with fire and fury, ready to clean house. But that's not how Jesus came. He didn't burst onto the scene with thunder. He came quietly, humbly born in a manger, wrapped in cloth, greeted by shepherds. Jesus came into the world with a whimper and not fire and fury.

So how do we reconcile John's fiery message with the peaceful arrival of Christ?

He's preparing the way for a new kind of kingdom, one not built on power or fear, but on love, mercy, and peace. And peace, true peace, often begins with disruption. It asks us to turn from what distracts us, to clear space in our hearts, and to make room for something deeper.

Each year, I struggle with how to embrace this season with my family. Life speeds up, not down. The holidays can feel chaotic, not peaceful. But maybe peace isn't something we stumble into, it's something we **prepare for**. Just as John prepared the way for Jesus, maybe we're called to prepare the way for peace in our homes, our relationships, and our hearts.

So I ask myself:

How do I find peace?

Is it slowing down or letting go of control?

Or is it fighting for the pursuit of peace in a noisy world?

PRAYER: *Dear God, help me in this busy season of family and friends to still know you are there. Help me to put aside some of the distractions and prepare for your peaceful coming.*

BRAD PRESLAR has attended Ardmore since 2009. Brad is married to Brooke Preslar who is an assistant Principal in Forsyth County schools. Brad and Brooke were married at Ardmore. Brad and Brooke have two daughters, Caroline (13) and Emmy (11).

Isaiah 40: 1-11

“PEACE AND COMFORT FOR GOD’S PEOPLE”

Isaiah 40: 1-11 begins with a word we all long to hear: “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.” After years of exile, struggle, and feeling far from God, Israel receives a message of hope. God is not distant, but present and tender, speaking peace into their weariness.

During Advent, we often feel the tension between waiting and longing—waiting for Christ’s coming while longing for the comfort only He can bring. These verses remind us that God’s comfort is not simply ease or escape, but the assurance of His presence. Even in the wilderness, the voice cries out to prepare the way of the Lord. Our valleys, mountains, and rough places—our burdens, doubts, and struggles—will be leveled by the One who comes with power and with gentleness.

Verse 11 paints a tender picture of God as a shepherd: “He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.” This is the comfort we celebrate in Advent: God’s strength joined with compassion. He does not come merely to rule but to carry, to guide, and to hold us close.

As we prepare our hearts this season, let us find comfort in knowing that God’s promises are certain. The Word of our God stands forever, even when everything else feels fragile or fleeting. Christ has come, Christ is here, and Christ will come again—bringing comfort, peace, and everlasting hope.

PRAYER: *Shepherding God, carry us in Your arms as we wait for Christ’s coming. Comfort our hearts with Your presence and unshakable promises. Amen.*

DR. JAN OVERMAN is a retired Nurse Educator and College Administrator. Jan is married to Gary Pressley, mom to adult children and loves being a Grammie. Serving as a Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader at ABC continues to be a privilege and blessing.



2 Peter 3: 8-15

“WAITING ON THE COMING ON THE LORD”

Seeking to find peace during a season of waiting presents a paradox of “peacefully waiting”. Inherent to waiting is some level of discomfort and uncertainty and the emotions that come with such experience (excitement and anxiety, to name a few). For many (myself included), seasons of waiting challenge our peace, rather than augment our peace. How, during this Advent season (and beyond), can we peacefully wait?

The apostle Peter reminds us in 2 Peter Chapter 3 that “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.” Just prior, Peter reminds us, in speaking of the creation of the heavens and earth, that God was there in the beginning and that God will keep his promise. Peter continues and puts it bluntly: “Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means Salvation”.

We should derive comfort and find peace in Peter’s words. God has been present since the beginning and God does not break his promises. As we look towards Christmas, the ultimate assurance that God keeps his word, trusting in God’s timing and remaining patient to a God who created the heavens and earth resounds.

But Peter does not stop at the cosmic level; instead, Peter offers insight into how to apply this message to our day to day lives. Peter encourages us to live “holy and godly lives” and to “look forward to the day of God.”

I find great comfort in Peter’s call to “look forward”. Peter asks us to embrace the uncertainty and discomfort of waiting. Our (and once again my) tendency with periods of waiting is to become anxious and to seek to take control of things that are often wholly out of our control. When we accept Peter’s call, we can find assurance that patience is fruitful and glorifies God. Through God’s assurance that he is with us when we wait, we find peace.

PRAYER: *Lord, during seasons of waiting and uncertainty, help us find peace. Remind us God that through your word, you created the heavens and the earth and all of creation and that you always keep your promises – even if the fulfillment of such promise follows a timeline that we cannot comprehend. Just as we find peace in the comfort of your words with the making of a new heaven and earth, let us find peace and learn to peacefully wait through the ordinary and mundane challenges. In your name we pray, Amen.*

HANK NIBLOCK is a lifelong member of Ardmore Baptist Church. He loves exercising, playing golf, and playing guitar. He is married to Sarah and they have one child, Henry (9 months).

Philippians 4:4-7

"FROM WORRY TO PEACE"

When we turn on the news in Belgium this year, it is always filled with news of possible war. In the Spring, they told Europeans to be "war ready". We were to stock our homes with food, water and a battery-operated radio. And still at the end of the year, the rumors of war continue. Israel, Gaza, Syria, Russia, Ukraine and Poland continue to fight, and Belgium is the home to both NATO and the European Union. It is so easy to worry.

But here in Philippians, Paul tells us not to worry about anything. And it seems impossible, but thankfully he gave us an action plan to stop the worrying. Rejoice! And pray. It seems strange but one of the ways we usher in the peace in our home is through worship. It's our way of rejoicing. I sit at the piano in the living room and Phoebe brings in the guitar. When we sing, a peace settles in my soul. And we remember to talk to our Father who has authority over all the chaos in this world. And He is our hope for change. And it is Jesus who said that He gives us HIS peace.

Keeping our eyes focused on Him brings peace. In Hebrew, "peace" is the idea of being whole or complete, not just free from conflict. We only become whole or complete through making Jesus our King and surrendering to His ways. So, as we pray for the world, our families and our own lives, we pray the peace of Jesus, the Messiah, will come into every broken situation. We don't pray for peace the way the world sees it, but peace as Jesus offers. Peace in any language brings rest. Peace. Shalom. Eirene. مآل. Vrede. Paix.

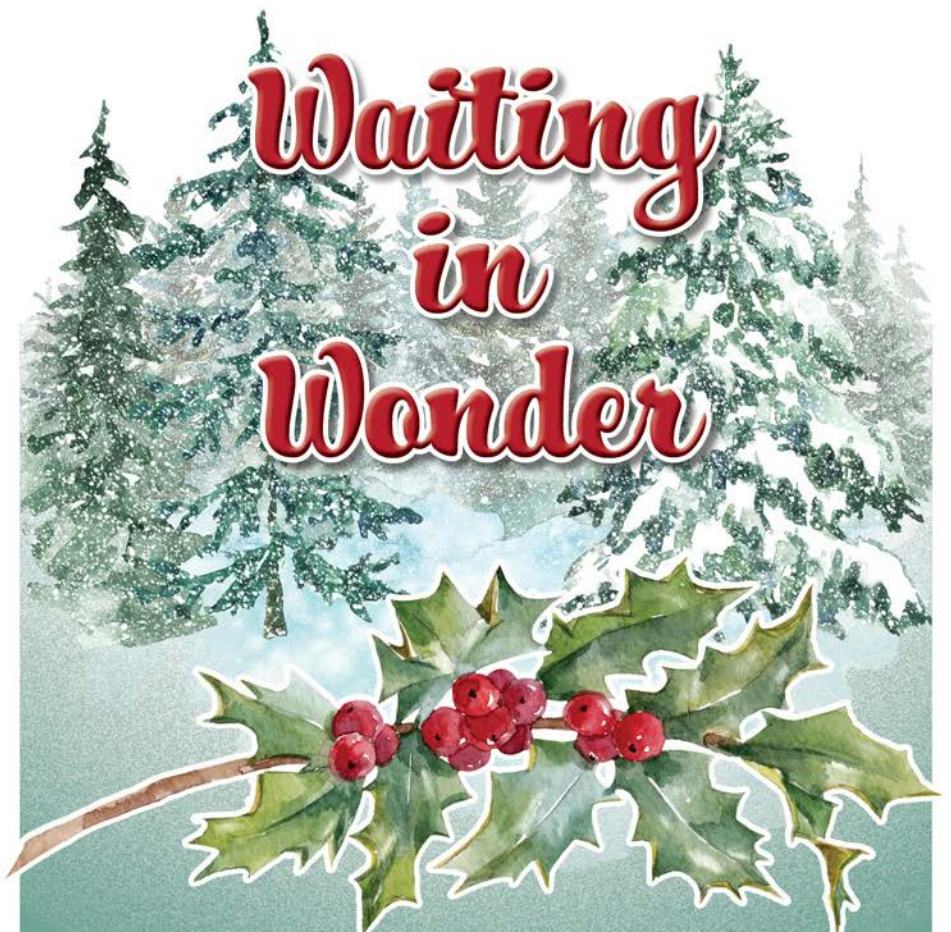
PRAYER: *Our Father, we thank you for the peace of Jesus. We thank you that you are still offering perfect peace that brings wholeness and rest from the problems of the world. And we pray that we ourselves, our families, our nations and our world will find the only true lasting peace this Christmas – Jesus. It is in His everlasting name that we pray, Amen.*

JANÉE ANGEL has served as CBF Field Personnel in Belgium since 2004. She and her husband, Hary, and their two daughters, Phoebe and Maria-Grace enjoy speaking 4 languages in their home every day! English, French, Dutch and Arabic. They also enjoy playing games together, eating rolled grape leaves and trying new Belgian chocolates. And most days you can find Janée enjoying a wonderful cup of coffee with a friend.



THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION



Waiting in Wonder

An Advent and Christmas Worship Celebration
through music of the season, carols and readings
presented by the Sanctuary Choir, children, youth,
handbell choirs, and instrumentalists.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 • 10:45 AM • SANCTUARY

Philippians 2:1-4

Occasionally, you'll hear Julie Andrews singing "My Favorite Things" on holiday radio stations around Christmas time. Although not originally a Christmas song, its reference to sleigh bells captures the essence of winter merriment. Sometimes when I hear this song I think of my own long list of favorite things: freshly cut grass, warm blankets, a freshly brewed cup of coffee, warm walnut brownies. All of these things bring me so much giddiness, especially around the holidays. But happiness found in a warm walnut brownie (although very much a gift) is different from joy.

In this passage, Paul is writing to the Christian community in Philippi while in prison. In Chapter 2 specifically, Paul emphasizes humility and unity, focusing on the example of Jesus Christ. The joy Paul describes is not fleeting like happiness can be, but deep, eternal, and resilient.

This Advent season, we are invited into Christ's joy and humility. Jesus came to us in the most humble of circumstances, born in a manger. He did not spend time with the rich, influential, or politically powerful, but instead, the least of these. Let us remember that joy is not found in circumstances but in our love and commitment to Christ. True joy doesn't boast, compare, or judge. It unites us in love. We are called to serve one another in love, and in doing so, we reflect the love of Jesus Christ.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, let us choose unity over self, compassion for our neighbor, and joy that transcends.

PRAYER: *Holy Father, we thank you for the gift of joy. May we each feel your presence and may it humble us to serve one another in your love. Unite us, Oh Lord, as a people committed to spreading the love of your Holy Son. Amen.*

KATHRYN PACKETT has served on staff since March 2024 and is now serving as the Associate Pastor of Welcome. Kathryn is married to Ryan, an engineer, and together they have two children: Livvy (4) and Graham (6 months). In her free time, she enjoys frequenting local parks with her family and beloved black Labrador, Ginny.



Isaiah 35:1-10

I was born into a Catholic family in New Jersey. My family included five children, two girls and three boys. With all those children, Christmas was always a very joyous occasion, but our big celebration took place on Christmas Eve. My mother made a casual supper of Swedish meatballs, potato salad, baked beans, cheese and crackers, and a couple desserts. After we ate, we were allowed to open our presents! I later figured out that this was a ploy by my parents to get to sleep late on Christmas morning. In years when all five children were healthy, we would go to Midnight Mass, a very formal and solemn service. At the beginning of the service, there was a large procession – the priest carrying the cross, the altar boys dispensing incense, and the nuns. Last but not least, the Knights of Columbus (the Catholic men's organization) came in wearing their full costume regalia including their plumed hats and swords. Even though we were getting very tired, this was enough to keep me, my sister, and my brothers awake!

Isaiah was a very gifted poet, and much of the book of Isaiah was written in a poetic meter and rhythm which included beautiful imagery as well as disturbing imagery. In Chapter 35 Isaiah tells us of hope, deliverance, and a joyful life. The metaphors he used included a contrast between the desert and luxuriant vegetation and the crocus, a plant which produces many flowers from a single bulb. The culmination of all this hope and joy is the highway, or Holy Way, which leads us to heaven and eternal life. Those who follow this "highway" are redeemed by the power of God, which we know from the New Testament was the birth of Jesus Christ as the Messiah, who came to save us from our sins. The Holy Way is available to all who accept Jesus as their Lord. This is the gift that should put a joyful song in our hearts!

There are some Advent seasons and Christmases when due to events going on in your life, it may not be a joyful season. You may not feel joyful or want to sing Christmas carols. It is during those times in life when remembering God's gift of his Son to provide our salvation is the greatest joy there is and can provide you with peace.

PRAYER: *Father, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus. Because you loved us so much, you sent Him to redeem us and give us eternal life. May we always strive to be worthy. Amen.*

ELLEN BUMGARNER and her husband, Charlie, have been members of Ardmore since 1972. They have two daughters, Kelly Trenchard (also a member of Ardmore) and Lisa Robertson who lives in Rawlings, Maryland. They have four grandchildren: Noah and Levi Trenchard and Alex and Gabi Robertson.

Psalm 146:5-10

“JOY UNSPEAKABLE”

This may be the most awkward Advent devotional about joy you'll ever read. In fact when Tyler first approached me about writing an advent devotional about joy my initial reaction was "This is our first Christmas without Dad. I don't know if I can do this." Then I read the scripture Tyler assigned to me Psalm 146:5-10.

When I read verse nine about the Lord **"...sustains the fatherless and the widow,"** I realized for the first time in our lives Mom and I fit that description. It was a sad, hollow feeling. But as I thought about Dad, more and more Bible verses came to my mind! Slowly I realized the sadness and pain had faded to the background. Joy was replacing my grief.

One of my favorite Christmas memories as a boy was going with Dad and my Sunday School class to Porter's old store and "bagging treat." Each year we put together small paper bags of "treat." They consisted of a couple of oranges, some candy, and a small toy, like crayons, a bag of plastic army men, or a little baby doll. While we boys were bagging treat bags the teachers would do bigger boxes with a ham and some canned vegetables. There were always enough treat bags left over for us to have one after our Christmas program at church.

Fast forward to 2025 and Porter's store is gone. The church I grew up in is gone replaced by a larger, beautiful sanctuary across the road. And Dad has gone to heaven. The older I get the more changes I experience- except one. God is still the same! God's love and His promises endure forever. Belief in our Lord Jesus is the way to eternal life, forgiveness of sins, and indescribable, unshakable, joy!

As we find ourselves in the 2025 Advent season we no doubt find ourselves in seasons of change as well. I hope that God's peace permeates your days as you prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. May God's love provide a respite for us to remember His gift to all of us. The source of true joy.

PRAYER: *Father God in the midst of this Advent season the chaos of this world swirls around us. Help us to demonstrate the difference your Son has made in our lives by radiating your peace and joy! In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*

TOD BRYANT is a retired systems administrator and is married to Becky a retired high school biology teacher. They have a daughter named Katie who lives in Savannah, GA. Tod enjoys tinkering with PCs and welcoming folks to Ardmore Baptist Church. *The title comes from 1 Peter 1:8 (KJV)*

Matthew 11:2-11

“STEADFAST JOY”

I'm not surprised that I was asked to write on the virtues of joy in the Advent season. I enjoy being a part of the Joy in the Journey team. Joy in the Journey provides an opportunity for fellowship and community among our seniors. We enjoy good food and laughter and encouragement.

I've had many events in my life that brought great joy: marriage, birth of our children, graduations, grandchildren, beautiful sunrises and sunsets, precious time with great friends and so much more.

As I grow older, I have faced challenges other seniors face that can steal your joy. The death of a parent or a spouse, health changes, the loss of siblings, a long goodbye to some with memory issues, saying goodbye to the house filled with memories and facing the challenge of living in a new place and making new friends.

Joy is defined as a deep-seated sense of wellbeing, not dependent on external circumstances. After telling people about Jesus, John was faced with letting his circumstance define him. He found himself in jail and he had to send word to Jesus, are you the one who is to come? or are we still waiting? John didn't mince words. John wanted to know: am I following the right person? I am in prison for this. Jesus hears and knows how to answer John. He answers by telling the disciples of John to tell him what you see; the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. The news must have encouraged John. Jesus knew his heart and how to speak to him to see the big picture.

I believe Jesus is there for me and other seniors who face some tough circumstances. Our situation does not give us joy. We have a joy wherever life finds us, knowing Jesus loves us and died for us. He is always there in all circumstances. His grace brings us a steadfast joy!

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, Thank you for this season of reflection and anticipation. Forgive us when we are consumed by circumstances and forget the joy that is ours in all situations.*

SARAH GRIFFENHAGEN is married to John and has three children, Jill, Beth, and Mary. Sarah enjoys being a grandmother, a nice cup of hot tea and a good book, encouraging others, all things Buffalo Bills. She has been a member of Ardmore for 44 years.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

This passage from Isaiah reminds us to wait. The season of Advent is all about waiting, waiting for Jesus to come into our world and change everything. If we really think about it, we are always a people in waiting. Some of us wait eagerly for the birth of a child. We may grumble as we wait in line. We may nervously wait for test results. We wait for our world to stop fighting. We wait for injustices to cease. We wait for peace. In this waiting, we have a choice about how we wait...do we wait passively or actively. We can watch things happen and wish they didn't, praying things will change. Or we can be actively engaged in our world and join in as the scripture says, "proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness the prisoners." We can be dismayed about our world... or we can choose to see what God is doing, and join in.

Did you know that Jesus read this passage from Isaiah at the beginning of his ministry? (Luke 4) As we read this passage may we be in unison with the one who, out of great love for all humanity, came to redeem and reconcile everyone. In today's passage, notice all the action words: proclaim, release, comfort, provide, plant, rebuild, and renew. It's a reminder to us that God comes into our world to change everything. The change continues with us; changing our mindset, changing our priorities, changing the way we see other people. This Advent season may we accept the call from God and step in to what it means; every day we have opportunities right here in Winston-Salem (or wherever you are reading this) to help release, comfort, provide, plant, and renew. This child that we await comes to change everything, bringing justice and healing to us all. Let us all join in on this change that Jesus brings.

PRAYER: *God, as we continue to walk toward the coming of Jesus, guide us to accept your call to help renew, rebuild, and restore what is broken and hurting. May we be faithful in aiding others in need, so those who are held captive, physically and spiritually, can find freedom in you. Amen.*

REVS. GRETCHEN & DANE MARTIN have been members at Ardmore Baptist Church for 10 years, along with their sons Finley (10) and Brooks (8). During the holidays, their two favorite family traditions are watching Christmas movies and making lots of Christmas cookies.

PROCLAIM RELEASE
COMFORT REBUILD
PROVIDE PLANT RENEW

Luke 1:45-46

“O JOY, WHERE ART THOU?”

When was the last time Mary praised God? I mean, REALLY praised God. After all, it had been four hundred years since God had spoken through the prophets. That is a long silence.

As many have asked in the silence when “wrong seems oft so strong,” did Mary first wonder, “is God close or distant? Knowable and knowing, or obscure and shrouded in mystery? Does God still care about us?” Then an angel shows up.

During the thirty years I was in active music ministry Christmas often came around way too soon. By mid-summer the planning started for all the activities of multiple choirs and instrumentalists. By the end of December I had little if any wonder or joy left. You can definitely plan the joy out of the season; no silence, no relaxation, just lots of sound and activities, being busy and busier. Now in retirement there is plenty of time for....no, wait! There is still a lot of noise and conflict, discouragement, disappointment, estrangement and questions about God’s presence and if he still cares.

So, even now (maybe for you too), I may be like Augustine who thought that “...we do not wonder because it happens every year; it has lost its marvelousness by its constant recurrence.” But according to Luke, Mary experienced wonder and joy at what she had been called by God to do, and despite the silence she basked in the “promise He made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Forever! That’s us, right? Is it irrational to still find joy that “two thousand years ago a young girl bore a child as helpless as any child, a child who would show us that the greatest power is in weakness, the greatest majesty in meekness, a child whose growing up was then, and always will be, out of tune with the tenor of the times?”

Well, the times are definitely out of tune, but...

This is the irrational season

When love blooms bright and wild.

Had Mary been filled with reason

There’d have been no room for the child.

– MADELAINE L’ENGLE

PRAYER: *God of wonder, God of might, God of royal beauty bright, keep us wondering, keep us joyous, guide us to your perfect light.*

LES DAVIS, along with his wife Diane, have been members of Ardmore since 2013. They came to the area in 1985 for Les to serve as Minister of Music at Clemmons First Baptist and then as Director of Missions in Yadkin Association. They have four grown children and six grands.

Isaiah 55:1-13

“THE JOY THAT ENDURES”

We all chase after things that make us happy. Whether it's the perfect holiday, trying to make everything fit perfectly into place, or planning our days to be most productive, our efforts take energy, but these moments seem to fade as quickly as they come. While there is nothing wrong with seeking happiness, it is not the same as lasting joy. In Isaiah 55:2 we are asked, “Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?” What a difficult question to answer. We are being asked to stop making decisions based on what we think will make us happy and instead find lasting joy in the promises that God has made to us.

In this passage, God gives us a generous invitation that we have all longed to hear, “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters” (Isaiah 55:1). In a season of life that is so full, yet maybe not always fulfilling, God reminds us that joy is found in resting in Him. God's promise to us that His word “will not return empty” and we will “go out in joy and be led forth in peace” (Isaiah 55:11) points us toward the joy and fulfillment that we can only find with Him.

Joy perseveres even in the waiting of this Advent season because it reminds us of what God has done through Christ and what He continues to do in our world today. Joy is trusting in God even when it is difficult to see the bigger picture. Joy is not dependent upon a situation but flows from the assurance of God's presence and redemption despite our circumstances.

In this Advent season, let us stop chasing momentary happiness and allow us to start receiving the everlasting joy God promises us that will persist through every season of life.

PRAYER: *Loving God, we thank you for the everlasting joy that is found in You. In our waiting, fill us with the joy of Your promise and the salvation of the coming of Your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

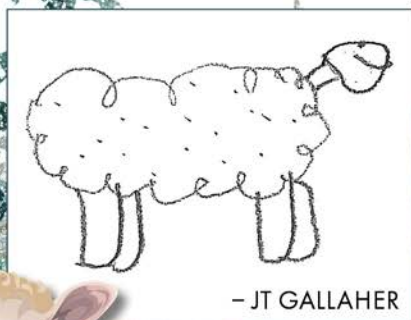
LORNA FOWLER has attended Ardmore Baptist Church all her life. Lorna is a Junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and loves music, spending time with friends and family, and crafting. She is the daughter of James and DeNeal Fowler, and the sister of Grayson and Samuel.



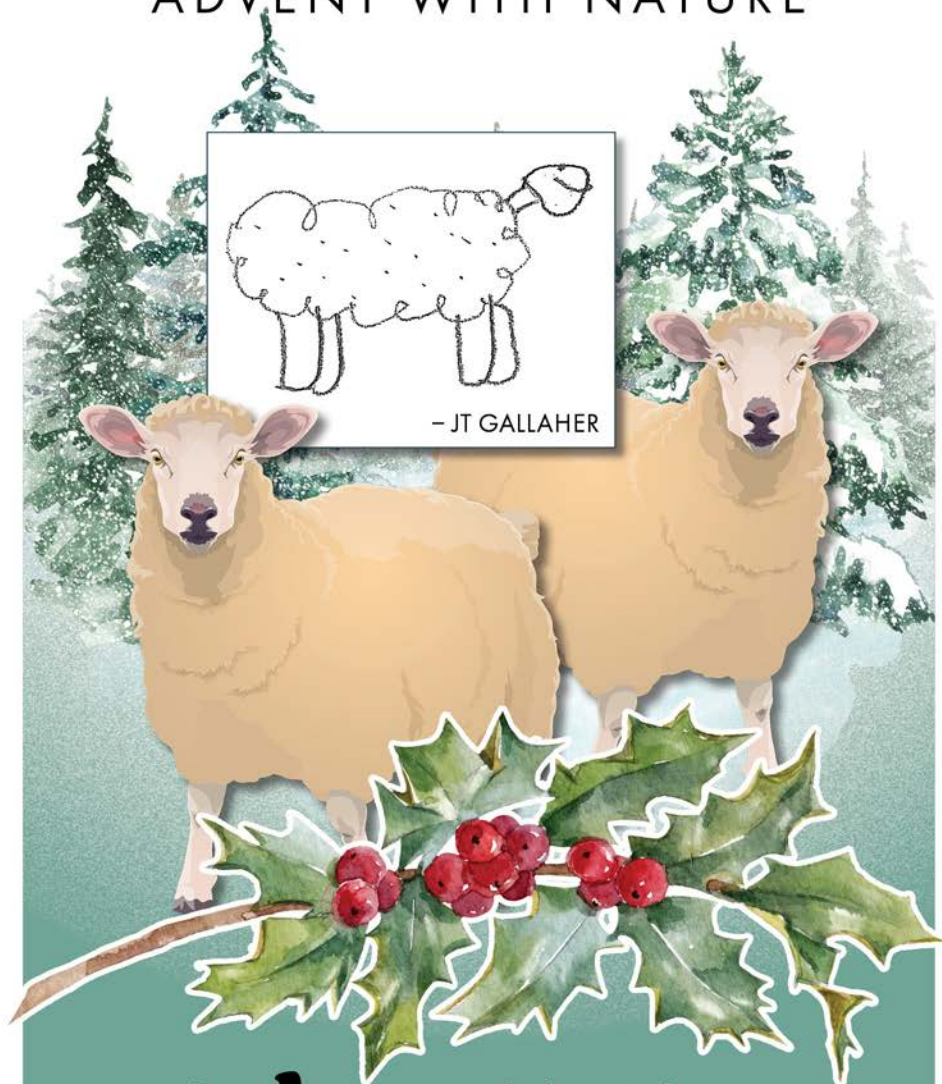
FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

All Creation Waits

ADVENT WITH NATURE



- JT GALLAHER



The **Love** of the Sheep

LUKE 2:8-20

Luke 2:8-20

A soft breeze caressed the hillside. Smoke from the campfire drifted over the flock, reassuring them that their shepherds were nearby and it was safe to sleep. The day had been unremarkable: wandering in search of food, grazing happily, and finally, contentedly chewing cud while eyelids grew heavy under this starry sky.

Suddenly their eyes were wide open. Brightness like the sun surrounded them all. Terrified, shepherds cowered and sheep bleated. But just as the angel's light had pierced the darkness, the interruption was instantly accompanied by the reassuring command: **Fear not!** And in two shakes of a lamb's tail, the fear—shared by shepherds and sheep alike—disappeared like shadows at noon.

The shepherds rushed off to find “in the city of David, the Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” But what about the sheep? Did someone volunteer to stay behind? Or were they so excited they just left the sheep alone on the hillside?

Since that baby would grow up to describe himself as the “Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep,” I want to imagine that at least one good shepherd volunteered to stay and care for the flock while the rest ran to confirm the angel's words.

And it would not surprise me at all if those sheep hearing good tidings of great joy that night felt at “peace on earth.”

Maybe those lambs even felt a kinship with this newborn and could hear John the Baptist describing Jesus years later as “The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

PRAYER: *God, you lead us in right paths and beside still waters that restore our souls. You are the Good Shepherd, and all we want this Advent season is to hear your voice and to follow you. Amen.*

STEVE COTHAN began serving this fall as Ardmore Baptist's Interim Youth Pastor. Steve and his wife Nancy have been married for 35 years, served together on church staff, and have three adult children and two grandsons. And for those who celebrate Festivus, Steve has made a donation in your honor to “The Human Fund” (Money for People).



Isaiah 7:10-16

“SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE SIGNS”

Signs are a critical aspect of our daily life. They give us direction, provide warning, honor heroes and highlight important events. As the oft-covered rock song proclaims, “Signs, signs, everywhere signs...” (young people, you may need to look those lyrics up)!

Signs are also an important part of our Christian life. In this chapter from Isaiah, King Ahaz, the ruler of Judah, is terrified of two invading armies. Isaiah is sent to King Ahaz to remind him of God’s promise of protection. God offers King Ahaz a sign of protection, but the king disingenuously turns this offer down out of false piety. Thereafter, Isaiah foretells to King Ahaz the coming of the Christ child’s birth – Immanuel – and promises to King Ahaz that the warring kingdoms threatening Judah would be destroyed.

If we are honest, we often are like King Ahaz. Fear, unbelief, brokenness, stubbornness and/or pride keep us from seeing the signs from God. They can be as simple as a sunset, as unexpected and welcoming as a text from an old friend that we hadn’t seen in a while, or as jarring as a sermon, song or testimony that penetrates the heart. We all have times in our lives (and likely quite recently) where God’s presence revealed itself to guide us – sometimes subtly and sometimes with an overwhelming sense of conviction. God shows us these signs to remind us of the hope found in His love and the unfailing promises of strength, healing and peace that He gave both to the Children of Israel in the Old Testament and to us in the year 2025.

The signs are everywhere – if we are only brave and faithful enough to open our eyes, ears and hearts to both acknowledge AND follow them.

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, thank you for your unfailing love and for showing us that you are never far from us. May we remember to seek out your ways and stay vigilant to the signs that you are sending to direct us throughout this Advent season and into the new year. Amen.*

FRANKLIN WATKINS is a geriatrician at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist and been a member of Ardmore since 2005. Franklin has learned lifetime resilience through University of Tennessee athletics and enjoys fried chicken, baked goods and black coffee (though not all at the same time). He is married to Mackenzie (age not stated), has two sons - Nate (age 19) and Garrett (age 16) - and one very spoiled geriatric dog, Buster (age 12).

Luke 2:1-7

“THE LAMB OF GOD”

*This is amazing grace. This is unfailing love.
That you would take my place, that you would bear my cross.
You laid down your life.
That I would be set free. Jesus, I sing for all that you’ve done for me...
Worthy is the lamb who was slain.
Worthy is the king who conquered the grave.
This is amazing grace. This is unfailing love.*

– “This is Amazing Grace” song by Phil Wickham

What a humble beginning for the Lamb of God. A baby, born far from his home, laid in a feeding trough. Announced to shepherds and their sheep in the fields, laid to rest in a manger, with the other animals. The Lamb of God, sent to set us free from sin.

“To us a son is given” It’s a gift. Jesus’s birth is a gift. Jesus is a gift. The Lamb of God sent to save us. Possibly the greatest gift humanity has been given.

This is a season filled with gift giving. I can remember as a child, anxiously waking up my entire family on Christmas morning, to see what gifts were waiting for us. God’s love is an incomparable gift. God’s love was shown through a baby, born far from his home, and laid in a feeding trough. God sent angels that announced His birth to shepherds and their sheep. God saved a place among the animals for this baby, He created the tree that the manger came from, He grew the grass for the hay, and He did all of this for you. Christmas is the greatest demonstration of God’s love.

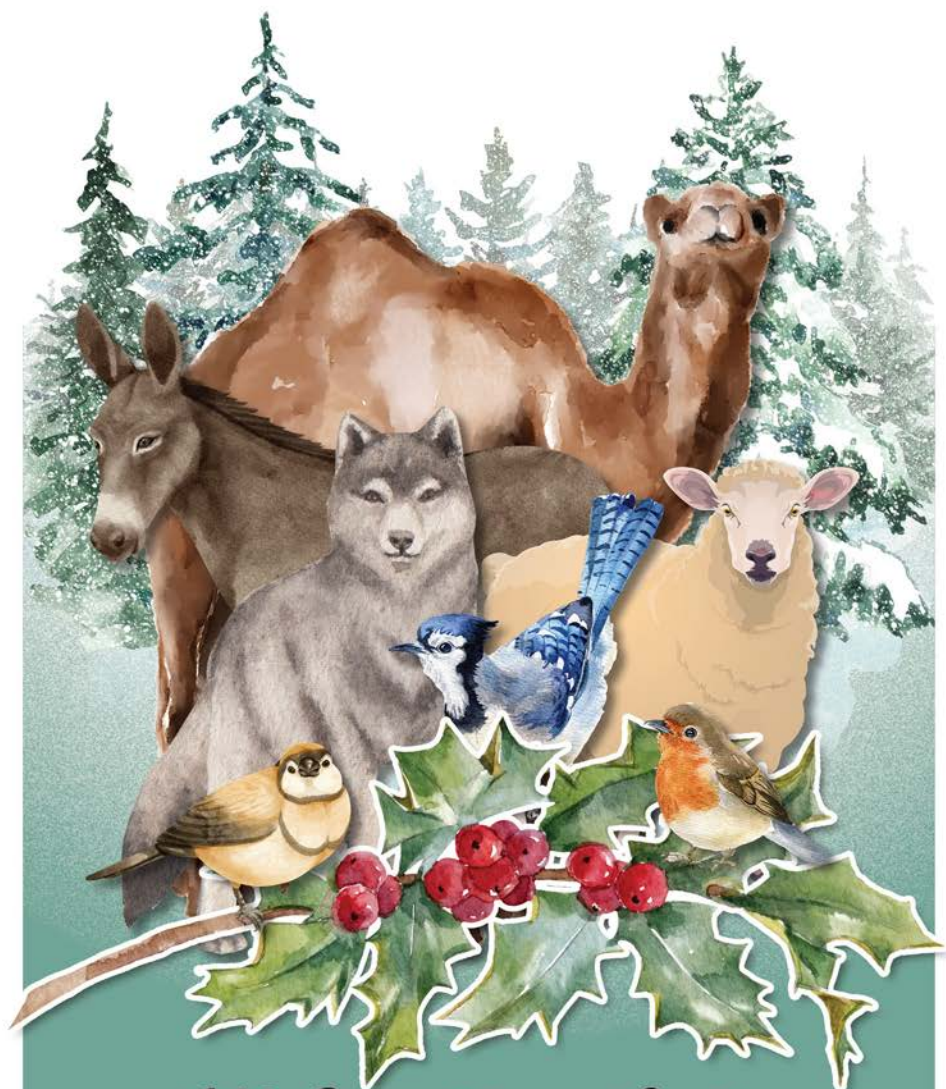
Here’s the good news of Advent!

Not only that a child is born, bearing names like “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Lamb of God” but also that this child is born to us!

PRAYER: *God, thank you for the season of Advent to remind us of the depths of your love. Thank you for the greatest gift. Thank you for your unfailing love. Help us to reflect that love in our daily lives. Amen.*

AMANDA MCINTYRE has attended Ardmore since she was born. She is the daughter of Jeff and Debbie McIntyre and sister of Joshua McIntyre. Amanda attended Appalachian State University and is in her 8th year of teaching at Brunson Elementary School. Amanda has loved watching Ardmore grow over her lifetime, and loves being a part of her small group/young adult community.

Christmas Eve



All Creation Waits

ROMANS 8:18-25

Romans 8:18-25

“ALL CREATION WAITS”

In our scripture passage for today, Paul speaks of all creation waiting, longing, and even *groaning* for the redemption and restoration promised through Jesus Christ.

This year's Advent theme “All Creation Waits,” has also focused on creation waiting. And tonight we celebrate what all creation has been waiting for. Tonight, all heaven and earth hold their breath together. The season of Advent, the time of waiting, longing, and hoping, comes to its fulfillment in the birth of Jesus.

From the very beginning, all creation has been waiting. The stars that glittered above Bethlehem were waiting for the moment when one of them would shine the brightest to mark the Savior's birth. The animals in the stable waited quietly, not knowing that their humble home would become the place where God's son would be born. The shepherds on the hillside waited through the night, watching over their sheep, not knowing that angels would soon break the silence with songs of glory!

Yes, all of creation was waiting! Waiting for peace. Waiting for hope. Waiting for joy and love. And then on that silent, holy night, the cry of a newborn baby penetrated the heart of all creation. And the Word became flesh and made His home among us. God entered the world He created.

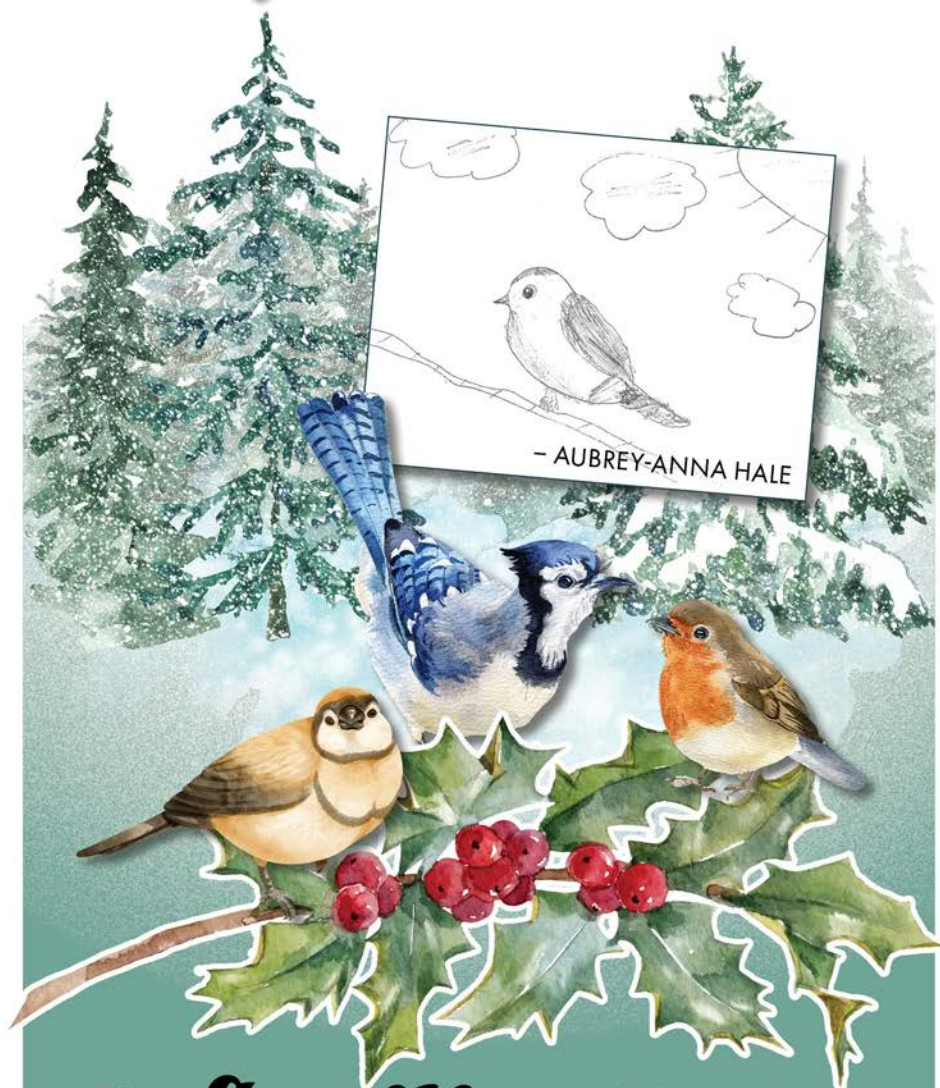
Tonight, the waiting of all creation meets its joy. The manger reminds us that God keeps His promises. The Child reminds us that hope is alive. So, like the shepherds, let us go and see. Like Mary, let us treasure these things in our hearts. And like all creation, let us rejoice for **Christ the Savior is born!**

PRAYER: *Creator God, on this holy night, we join all of creation in wonder and praise! Thank You for breaking into our waiting with Your light and love. As we celebrate the birth of our savior, fill our hearts with peace, our voices with joy, and our lives with the hope and love of Your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

DAVID FITZGERALD has served as Minister of Worship, Music and Arts at Ardmore Baptist Church since 2014. He is married to Martha Fitzgerald who teaches fourth grade at Pine Brook Elementary School. They have four grown children and love spending time spoiling their two beautiful granddaughters.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

After Christmas

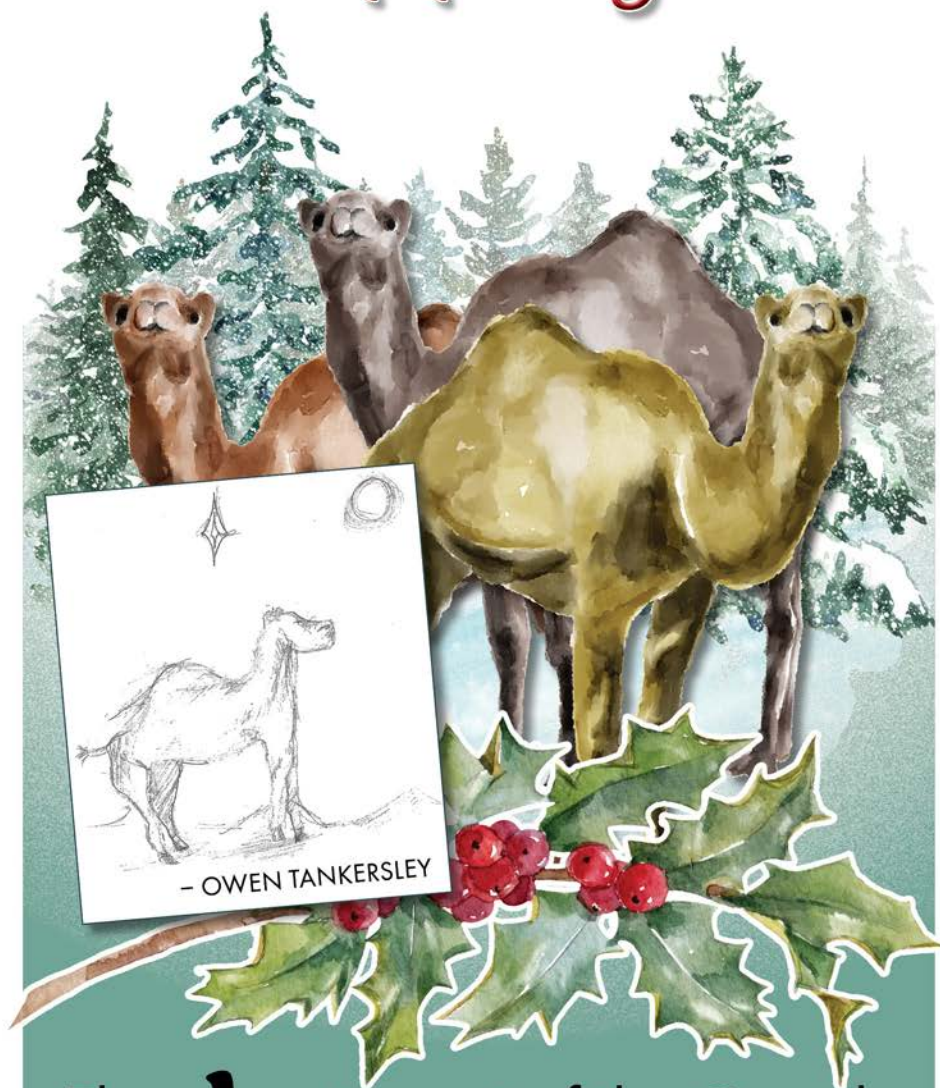


The **Sacrifice** of the Birds

LUKE 2:22-24

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

Epiphany



The *Journey* of the Camels

MATTHEW 2:1-12

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

"The Hope of the Donkey" – Romans 5:1-5

Music by the Youth Handbells

8:15AM & 10:45AM – Worship

Sunday, December 7 – Second Sunday of Advent

"The Peace of the Wolf" – Isaiah 11:6-9

Music by the Ardmore Orchestra

8:15AM & 10:45AM – Worship

Tuesday, December 9

12:00PM – **Joy in the Journey** – FH

"JOY at Christmas"

Sunday, December 14 – Third Sunday of Advent

"Waiting in Wonder"

10:45AM (no 8:15AM Service)

Carols and Readings presented by the Sanctuary Choir,
Children, Youth, Handbell Choirs, and Instrumentalists

4:00PM – Longest Night Service – Chapel

Thursday, December 18

10:30AM – Ardmore Baptist Preschool Christmas Program
Sanctuary

Friday, December 19

6:00PM – Youth Gingerbread House Making

Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

"The Love of the Sheep" – Luke 2:8-20

8:15AM & 10:45AM – Worship

4:00PM – **Arts at Ardmore** Presents: "Holiday Strings: Classics of the Season"

The Mozze Trio returns to fill the sanctuary with joy, warmth, and virtuosity.

Owen Dodds, pianist; Hudson Chung, violinist; Gustavo Antoniacomi, cello
Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 24

4:15PM – Children's Christmas Eve Service – Fellowship Hall

5:00PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

"All Creation Waits" – Romans 8:18-25

Music by Olivia Anderson, classical guitar, and Gustavo Antoniacomi, cello

ARDMORE BAPTIST CHURCH

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