

walking through...

*Week One of Advent*

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*In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.*

*Below are the suggested readings for the first week of Advent. Each night, our family will gather to read the daily scripture. Then Sunday's reading will be repeated, the candle will be lit, and we will finish with the prayer listed for Sunday. Please join us!*

**Sunday November 30, 2014**

*This scripture can be read each night as the candle is lit, along with the prayer below  
Psalm 18:28 English Standard Version (ESV)*

For it is you who light my lamp;  
the Lord my God lightens my darkness.

*Pray:*

Faithful God, out of war's chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ's advent of peace among all nations. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. AMEN

**Monday December 1, 2014**

*Genesis 2:15-3:15 English Standard Version (ESV)*

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

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“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man.”

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

**The Fall**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,

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and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel.”

**Tuesday, December 2, 2014**

*Isaiah 64:1-9 English Standard Version (ESV)*

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome things that we did not look for,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From of old no one has heard  
or perceived by the ear,  
no eye has seen a God besides you,  
who acts for those who wait for him.  
You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;  
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls upon your name,  
who rouses himself to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

But now, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Be not so terribly angry, O Lord,  
and remember not iniquity forever.  
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

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**Wednesday December 3, 2014**

*Psalm 80:1-7 English Standard Version (ESV)*

Restore Us, O God

**To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Testimony. Of Asaph, a Psalm.**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,  
stir up your might  
and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**Thursday December 4, 2014**

*Psalm 14 English Standard Version (ESV)*

**The Fool Says, There Is No God**

***To the choirmaster. Of David.***

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds,  
there is none who does good.

The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man,  
to see if there are any who understand,  
who seek after God.

They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;  
there is none who does good,

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not even one.

Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers  
who eat up my people as they eat bread  
and do not call upon the Lord?

There they are in great terror,  
for God is with the generation of the righteous.

You would shame the plans of the poor,  
but the Lord is his refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!  
When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,  
let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

**Friday December 5, 2014**

*Mark 13:24-37 English Standard Version (ESV)*

**The Coming of the Son of Man**

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

**The Lesson of the Fig Tree**

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

**No One Knows That Day or Hour**

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”