

Rappahannock Christian Church – 12-5-10  
Dr. Kenneth Wilbur

### **Advent Reading**

- Isaiah tells us to prepare the way for the Lord, to make the desert highway straight.
- Do we want to prepare *ourselves* as much as we want to prepare the packages and decorations?
- Preparation might mean reflecting on our flaws.
- It probably means considering our sinful behaviors.
- What if it means loving those we have issues with – those who have made different choices than our won – those who have hurt us?

We light these candles to show our love. May our hearts be open and our souls willing to live out Your love and do the work of Your kingdom.

Let us pray – **Isaiah says that every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low. Help us to love enough to make that possible. Love is the only thing that can make the uneven ground level. Guide us throughout this season of Advent preparation and personal reflection, and help us to reach out in love to prepare a straight path for the Christ Child. In the name of the One who always loves us. Amen.**

### **Communion Meditation**

It is not often that we get to hear the Gospel preached by our children. Yet today that is exactly what is going to happen. Today our children will rehearse for us the story of Christ's birth. What we do here at the Communion table is not a re-enactment, exactly. No one is going to pretend to be nailed to a cross as part of our Lord's Supper celebration. And yet it is rehearsal of what Christ did for us. This is Easter, and what the children bring to us a little later in the service is Christmas. There is a connection, of course. Yes, Christ came -- and what a joyful celebration Christmas is! But he came for a purpose. He came to offer himself on a cross as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. So today, as we take the Bread and the Cup, let's remember what Jesus told us to do, and that is to be reminded of Him.

Here is the instruction that the Apostle Paul gave to the Corinthian believers.

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26** – The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### **Christmas Pageant**

*This week we presented the Christmas Pageant as our token of worship to the Baby in the manger and our coming King. Following is the program in musical selections and words read by our children, so that you can “follow along”.*

**Silent Night** – *Duet, sung by Alex Dillard and Flannery Pope*

**REBECCA POPE** - "And she shall bring forth a son and you shall call his name 'Jesus' for He shall save His people from their sins. Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet saying: 'Behold a virgin shall be with child and she shall bring forth a son and they shall call his name 'Emanuel', which means, God with us.'"

**ALL OF THE CHILDREN** - "O, Come all ye faithful!"

**BRITTANY HAMMOND** - "The angels cry was heard throughout the universe. For those who heard and came seeking, they found a baby in a manger. But this was not just an ordinary baby; this was heaven's child, God in the flesh. God saw the fate of man and chose to leave His throne and journey to earth, to Bethlehem, to be wrapped in swaddling clothes. God's son would be called Jesus. His mission was to be born to die and bring salvation to all people."

**Go Tell It On The Mountain** – *Children's Chorus*

**ALL OF THE CHILDREN** - "So, come all ye faithful!"

**LAUREL BARNES** - "Those who believe, those who are curious, and those who are following the star, come. Come and see why the angels were rejoicing, what the shepherds were hearing and whom the wise men were seeking. Let your mind travel to Bethlehem. Let your heart rejoice with the angels and let your soul experience the journey. And when we arrive at the stable, let's offer our gifts of praise because a savior is born."

**REGAN SMITH** - "And suddenly, there was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying; 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will toward men.' When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to each other; 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see what has happened that the Lord has made known to us.' So they followed the star of Bethlehem to find The Star of Bethlehem, a King in a manger."

**What Can I Give Him?** – *Children's Chorus*

**CATSBY ROSE WARE** - "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, there came wise men saying: 'Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.'"

**What Child Is This?** – *Duet sung by Sarah Pope and Brittany Hammond*

**FLANNERY POPE** - "Imagine the omnipresent, omnipotent King of all glory, would choose for his journey on earth to begin in a manger. The creator would become dependent upon His creation. Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart."

**Mary Did You Know?** – *Solo by Bruce McComb*

**MAGGIE SMITH** - "The angels came down from heaven, the shepherds left their fields and the wise men traveled from the East to find the new King. Many of us have journeyed to find that star. But, in reality, the star of Bethlehem, that baby in the manger, the Messiah, whose name was Jesus, was the one who journeyed to find us."

**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** – *Duet sung by John and Amy Childress*

**Joy to the World** – *Congregational Anthem*

**Benediction**

To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:17