



O Come, O Come,
EMMANUEL

December

A Deeper Look At Advent

I LOVE Advent and Christmas music! One of my favorites is, "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel." Too often I sing or go through scripture on auto pilot. I just say the words but don't think about them. My brain is off somewhere else remembering holidays past or over planning the current one. I recently read the words and really digested them. They are printed in red for you to look at. At first read I thought, "Um, these don't sound too cheerful." Words like mourning, captive, Satan's tyranny, depths of hell certainly are far from my Merry Christmas image. So, I read the words again and prayed for insight.

The word Advent means the arrival of a notable person, thing or event according to Merriam Webster. As Christians the focus of Advent is on Jesus coming. When reading the lyrics, I first thought about Jesus' first coming. I thought about God's people under the oppression of the Romans. When was advent

first celebrated? I was interested in a deeper look at the history of advent. Prior to the Middle Ages, the history of advent focused on the second coming of Christ rather than the first Christmas. People would fast and pray. Their focus was very different than ours/mine. (Read <http://www.christianity.com/christian-life/christmas/what-is-advent.html> for more on the history.) Think about placing the words in our current day and age. Think about the current events that have been happening. Read the words of the song again. Different words jumped out at me, rejoice, victory, disperse the gloom, rejoice! Christmas points to the cross. Advent points to the second coming. The excitement that a child has waiting for Christmas is what we should have waiting for Jesus to come back. I have a feeling advent will be a little different for me this year. I certainly will listen to songs differently.

I also think my heart will not only think of long ago but have an added longing for Jesus to come back soon. Blessings to you and your this advent and always!

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse,
free
Thine own from Satan's
tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy
people save
And give them victory o'er
the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring,
come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent
here
Disperse the gloomy clouds
of night
And death's dark shadows
put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

From Jen Myers' Desk

November 20, 2015

Special Reminders

- ☺ **Preschool Christmas Program December 8, 7:00 p.m.**
- ☺ Class Christmas Parties; watch your child's snack calendar
- ☺ No School or daycare December 21-January 4
- ☺ January 5 school starts again

2015 Schedule of Services at Holy Cross

Advent is such an important time to prepare our heart for Christ. I highly encourage you to attend services at your home church or here with us.

Advent Services Wednesdays

December 2nd, 9th, 16th
9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services

4:30 p.m. Children's Sunday School Program
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
10:00 p.m. Christmas Candlelight Communion Worship

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25th
9:00 a.m. Christmas Worship and Communion

New Year's Eve Service

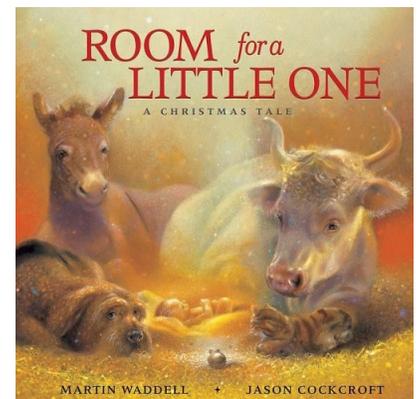
Thursday, December 31st
7:00 p.m. Worship and Communion



Christmas Program December 8th, at 7:00 p.m.

I will have a sign-up sheet by each teachers' sign-in sheet for refreshments for our December 8th program. If you are interested in bringing: 100% apple juice, fruit, cheese and crackers or Happy Birthday Jesus cupcakes, please come in and sign-up or email or call me.
Thank You!

Our Preschool Christmas Program will be in the church sanctuary. Children need to be here by 6:45 p.m. and sit in the front with their teacher. It will be a short program based on Martin Waddell's Room for a Little One with refreshments afterwards.



Christmas Certificates

As the holidays near, please consider purchasing gift cards through Kent Hoyer, in the church office. We receive a certain percentage from each card sold. You can buy everything from groceries and fuel to special occasion items.

We have: Chipolte, Pizza Hut, Papa John's, Subway, Panera, Starbucks, On the Border/Chili's, Red Robin, Applebee's, Dillons, itunes, Barnes and Noble, Bath and Body Works, TJ Maxx, Cabela's, Target, Walmart/Sam's (If you don't see the name of a store you are looking for, visit www.glscrip.com.) Pick up your order form from the school office. Orders will be submitted frequently during the holiday season. If you have any questions about the program, Kent Hoyer would be happy to explain how it works.



Thank You!



A Big thank you for all the families that came November, 14th to sing at the church service. The children did a wonderful job!

Thank you for all of your help donating items for Operation Christmas Child. Monday, the 16th we prayed for God to bless the boxes as they go around the world to children in need. We were able to send 21 boxes. Little Jesus books will be added to each before they are sent.

Holy Cross Preschool

600 N Greenwich Road
Wichita Kansas
67206

Phone: 316-684-4431

Fax: 316-684-2847

Email: jmyers@holycrosslutheran.net



Contacting the director

I have an open door policy. I am here to serve students, their families and my staff. Please talk with me if you have any questions, concerns or ideas to better our program.

My office hours are 6:45- 11:30 a.m. You can also get in touch with my through email, jmyers@holycross.net, or call into school or stop me at church (I usually go to Holy Cross Saturday night service starting at 6 p.m.)

Preschool Blog

I am very excited to announce that our preschool blog is active again. It is at <http://prek.lovemyschool.net/>. The blog has access to newsletters, links to hot-topic parenting issues, updates and photos of weekly happenings in our early childhood center. Students names will not be posted with photos on the blog.

Please subscribe by going to the web address and scrolling down on the left side. There is a subscribe to blog via email box. By subscribing you are emailed a notification when I update the blog weekly. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Myers.
