

The Advent WREATH



BUFFALO COVENANT

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The Advent Wreath: What Does It Tell Us About Christmas?

with Pastor Max Frazier

A HISTORY OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent – comes from Latin word “adventus” which means “arrival.

Advent is the four week preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

Christmas is not just one day – it is a season.

Just as we prepare our homes, should we not prepare our hearts for Christmas?

The first Advent Wreath appeared in 1839 in Germany.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CANDLES

Five Candles:

3 purple candles – speak of royalty

1 pink candle – speaks of joy

1 white candle – speaks of Jesus

Each of candles is named:

The Prophets’ Candle – the Candle of Hope

The Bethlehem Candle – the Candle of Peace

The Shepherds’ Candle – the Candle of Joy

The Angel Candle – the Candle of Love

The Christ Candle

THE PROPHETS’ CANDLE - THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Isaiah 9:6 and Colossians 1:27

Pictures of Old Testament prophets:
Images of judgment from God

Often overlooked are those images of hope.
The prophets pointed to Someone yet to come.

The prophets looked forward to this coming hope.

Micah spoke that this Hope would be born in Bethlehem. (*Micah 5:2*)

Isaiah spoke of this Hope being born of a virgin. (*Isaiah 7:14*)

Isaiah also saw this Hope being crucified for our sins. (*Isaiah 53*)

DEFINITION OF HOPE

“Hope” = “to cherish a desire with anticipation; to want something to happen or to be true.”

When you and I hope there is always a sense of uncertainty.

There was not uncertainty when the prophets hoped. There is a sense of absolute certainty.

THE ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS HOPE

The Christmas Story begins within the Garden of Eden. (*Genesis 3:15*)

God gave the promise of Hope to Abraham. (*Genesis 12:2-3*)

The prophets continued to encourage people with this message of Hope.

A WORLD THAT LACKED HOPE

The world that Jesus entered that first Christmas:

Pressures of Rome's heavy-handedness.

Oppressive taxation.

Creative death for those who rebelled.

Hope for freedom was just a dream.

Religious rituals and traditions stifled people's freedoms.

JESUS, THE LONG-HOPED-FOR APPEARS

Those who saw Jesus through the eyes of hope:

A widow who received her son back from the dead. (*Luke 7:11-17*)

A man whose life had been shattered by evil spirits, but was now freed.
(*Luke 8:26-39*)

A woman who was healed simply by touching Jesus' robe. (*Luke 8:42-48*)

A man who had spent 38 years lying beside a pool hoping to get well, was healed by Jesus. (*John 5:1-15*)

A woman caught in the act of adultery received forgiveness. (*John 8:1-11*)

A man hanging upon a cross receiving his due sentence for his crimes, receives forgiveness. (*Luke 23:42-43*)

A disciple named Peter who denied Jesus but was restored. (*John 21:15-19*)

What is the common denominator in these stories?

Each person was in a difficult place in life.

Each one had lost hope.

But Jesus gives us hope. (*Psalms 42:5*)

Jesus is the one to hold onto tightly when the storm clouds gather. (*John 16:33*)

JESUS IS STILL OUR LONGED-FOR HOPE

Titus 2:11-14

We are reminded often of how awful the world is.

Words of Hope:

John 14:1-3

Philippians 3:20-21

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

Revelation 22:1-4

AN ADVENT CHALLENGE

"Hope" – what a remarkable word!

"Hope" – without this word, all would be despair!

"Hope" – rests upon the promises given to us by God!

"Hope" – allows us to experience the present with peace and power.

"Hope" – gives us a reason for tomorrow – Jesus may come!

