



THE LOOP

COQUILLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH
DECEMBER, 2022



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ADVENT



A REFLECTION ON THE CHRISTMAS SEASON
PASTOR SAM FLAHERTY



THE ADVENT CANDLES: HOPE (PURPLE), LOVE (PURPLE), JOY (PINK), PEACE (PURPLE), AND CHRIST (WHITE).

Over 30 years ago Lovena and I began our married life together. Jacob, our first baby would soon arrive and we found ourselves beginning new family traditions. Laurin and Kelsey followed shortly after. Every Christmas, reading Luke 2:1-20 became our go to family tradition. We experimented with other traditions along the way but the reading of Luke 2 always happened every year for Christmas.

Lovena, Kelsey and I arrived in Coquille just over eight years ago (August 2014). We would spend our first Christmas in the unfamiliar. We were literally in a different land with new relationships forming and filled with hopeful expectancy. It seemed that our first year was filled with new challenges, discovery



and reflection on what we had always done together and how would we move forward listening for God’s voice and taking steps of faith. In the Fall of 2015 we planned for an Advent experience at Coquille Foursquare. As the Christmas season approached we celebrated Advent with a mix of liturgy and contemporary forms of worship. For many, including myself, it was our first time experiencing Christmas in such a way. The Christmas season (Advent) has become one of the greatest times of the year filled with encounters with Jesus. By the way, we still read Luke 2 together every year!

The Advent season is traditionally a four-week period before Christmas that celebrates the anticipation and coming of Jesus Christ,

the Messiah. The origin of “advent” is from the Latin word *adventur* which simply translates “coming” or “arrival”. Not only is the Christian meaning for preparation and celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ, his birth at Christmas, but also to celebrate the new life when someone accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior, and lastly, the anticipation of Jesus returning again.

THE ADVENT SEASON IS TRADITIONALLY A FOUR-WEEK PERIOD BEFORE CHRISTMAS THAT CELEBRATES THE ANTICIPATION AND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST, THE MESSIAH.

There are beautiful and rich traditions behind the celebration of Advent. Typically, there is a focus and/or theme of each week of Advent and some of the traditions celebrated around

the world during the Advent season. Certainly one of the purposes of Advent is to find time to slow down this Christmas season, say “no” to the things that distract you from Jesus and say “yes” to the gift that God wants you to experience.

The four Sundays of Advent each have a specific theme or focus. The purpose of each theme is to spend time reflecting on the true meaning of the season - the life of Jesus Christ. The goal should be to come before God with a sincere heart and to worship Jesus Christ.

So let’s join together and begin our Advent journey.



THE DUKE FAMILY, 2020



As we embrace the familiar practices of prayer, worship, storytelling, Scripture reading, conversation, and acts of mercy; we trust that you will experience hope, joy, love, and peace found in Christ. ■

DEREK HELPS HIS SON, ZANE, LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLES, 2021



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, 2019

DECEMBER



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

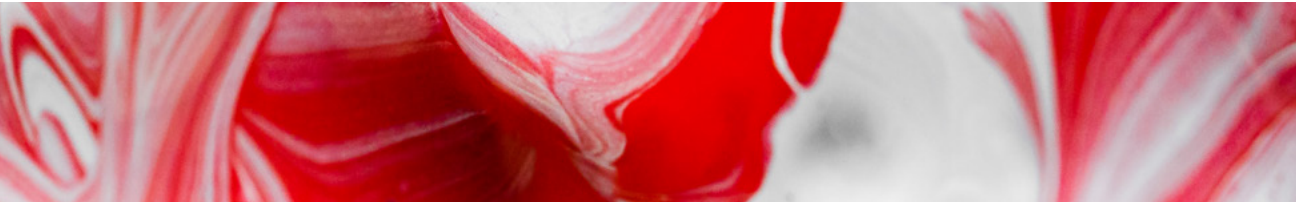
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 The Invitation	3 The Invitation
4 Advent: Joy The Invitation (No Church)	5	6 Mens' Bible Study	7	8 Celebrate Recovery	9	10
11 Advent: Love Church	12	13 Mens' Bible Study	14	15 Celebrate Recovery	16	17
18 Advent: Peace Church	19	20 Mens' Bible Study	21	22 Celebrate Recovery	23	24 Advent: Christ Candlelight Service
25 Christmas (No Church)	26	27 Mens' Bible Study	28	29 Celebrate Recovery	30	31



Advent at Coquille Foursquare:

November 27 - Hope

December 4 - Joy (No church service, The Invitation at Sawdust Theatre)

December 11 - Love

December 18 - Peace

December 24 - Christ, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25 - Christmas (No Church Service)

Church Service: Every Sunday Morning at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

The Invitation: Dec. 2, 3, 4. A fun musical for all ages at the Sawdust Theatre! Presented by Coquille Foursquare and Friends. More on page 7.

For more details, see Darlene Kupersmith.

Mens' Bible Study: Every Tuesday morning at 6:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

For more details, see Sam Flaherty.

Celebrate Recovery: Every Thursday evening at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

For more details, see Bill Howell.

Candlelight Service: Saturday December 24 at 4 PM in the Sanctuary.

THE INVITATION

SHOWS AT THE SAWDUST THEATRE:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 7 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2PM & 7PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 2 PM



THE STORY BEHIND
*THE INVITATION: A JOURNEY
TO CHRISTMAS*

DARLENE KUPERSMITH

What inspired me to write a musical? There are many answers to this question, but I'll limit it to a tiny bit of history.

Going way back...As a child, most would have described me as a very quiet, shy, little girl. That would be pretty accurate. At least that's what I remember. Fast forward.



SAM & SIERRA POSE IN PART OF THEIR COSTUMES FOR THE ROLES OF GABRIEL AND THE ZOOMER NARRATOR.

As an adult, I discovered an old, hand-written, first grade report card describing me as someone that loved to sing alone in front of the class. I was shocked! My love of singing won over timidity even way back then!

As the senior years were approaching, I wanted to figure out a creative way to continue singing solo as an “old lady.” I decided to combine the love of song with the love of design, color, dance and costumes and write a

musical. I could play the part of a singing grandma! I’d stop dying my hair, let the gray grow out and would create a musical using songs I’d written through the years. My intent was to be the “Mimi,” not the bad “Booger Boss!” My husband’s intent was to NOT be in the play. Well, thanks to Taco Bell (and God), there was a different plan for him too. You’ll have to ask me about that one... So, here we are, preparing for me to be the baddest bad guy and Bruce, Jesus. What a pair!

It’s been a long road of blood, sweat and tears. Blood from lots of hand sewing. (My relaxing time.) I don’t sweat easily, but yep, sweat. And lots of tears. I am so humbled by all the time and effort put in by so many. “Thank you” doesn’t even express it.

My prayer is that God will take all of our drops of time and effort and produce ripples of the life and healing that only He can bring. ■

SING A NEW SONG



Joy, Joy, Joy

Debbie Piburn & Kaylee Hanks, 2021

[Verse 1]

A babe that was born, a tale that was foretold
The Cornerstone revealed
A star in the night, angels sing Hallelujah
Hail the newborn King

[Chorus]

He's my joy, joy, joy
Christ livin' in me, livin' in me
My peace, peace, peace
He set me free, set me free
His hope and love abound

The King of Kings is crowned,
And He's livin' in me, yeah.

[Verse 2]

Anointed as King, sinless, an offering
God gave His only Son
The veil, it was torn, a sinner's heart reborn
Jesus lives in me

[Bridge]

He's my joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down
in my heart, down in my heart.
My peace, peace, peace, down in my heart,
down in my heart for keeps.
He's my love, love, love, down in my heart,
down in my heart, down in my heart.
My hope, hope, hope, down in my heart,
down in my heart for keeps.



ING



LISA, VICTORIA, KAYLEE, AND KEN AT WORSHIP PRACTICE

DEBBIE PIBURN

Last year, during the holiday season, I was driving to work and praying. I was feeling the weight of the world and such great sadness.

As I was praying, the Lord reminded me, again, not to look at the world, but look to Him. If I look at the world, all I see is hopelessness, unrest, fear, and hate. When I look to Jesus, I see **His HOPE, His LOVE, His JOY and His great PEACE.** I only need to look and see with His eyes. It's in our every days!

Jesus came into this world to bring **HOPE AND PEACE.** He gave His life for He had great **LOVE** for all people. (John 3:16). When we seek Him and praise Him, we are filled with His strength. The **JOY** of the Lord *IS* our strength (Nehemiah 8:10/ Psalms 28:7). Joy does not just come from good things that happen to us. It is a deep fulfillment that can only come from Jesus. **Jesus lives in US!**

It's amazing what can come out of a 30 minute drive! ■



WORSHIP LEADER AND TEAM SONGWRITER, DEBBIE



HOPE



A DEVOTION IN ROMANS 5
PASTOR KEN DUKE

What is Biblical Hope? Why do I ask this? Well because there is a difference between a hope for things to turn out the way we desire versus the hope we are to have as people of faith. The English Dictionary defines hope as a “feeling of expectation or desire for a certain thing to happen.” This is an accurate definition for sure; but as Christians who have our hope in Christ, does this worldly definition of hope reveal the fullness of what the Lord has for our lives? Partially, but Jesus Christ did not come to give us a feeling or desire for something to occur in our lives. No, it is much more than just feelings and desires, it is a reality of what He has provided into our lives. Our Hope in Christ is what He

has accomplished and finished for the believer in Him, along with what He is going to work in and through our lives for our future.

Biblical Hope is best defined as the **Assurance**, **Certainty**, and **Trust** in our relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ and His powerful Holy Spirit who dwells within our hearts and lives. You can believe it, why? Because He is trustworthy, He is faithful, and He has promised us that no matter what conditions, circumstances, and situations we find ourselves in as we live this life, it is His Hope that remains. Let’s read what the Apostle Paul has to say on this topic in Romans

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RONI HELPING DECORATE OUR LARGE CHRISTMAS TREE WITH A SILVER SWIRL OF ORNAMENTS.

5:1-5: “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”



KEN, LISA, BRYSON, AND SHANIA ACTING IN THE PLAY FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICE, 2019

Our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord, Savior, and King has justified us; we have peace with God through the work of Christ in His life, His words, His sufferings, and in His resurrection. We can trust in the Hope of His glorious love, kindness, peace, and mercy in all aspects of this life. Our relationship with Christ is not one without its struggles and challenges. On

the contrary, these challenges are the realities of life, for all people, whether believers, or unbelievers. Yet as believers we have obtained a Hope that surpasses the worldly and have been ushered into a place of Assurance, Certainty, and Trust in Him to see us through this life. Not just a feeling or desire for something to take place. It has taken place! The questions which remain are

these; Is your hope in what you can accomplish, or is your hope in Christ who has already completed it? Is your hope so strong in Christ that when you struggle with the challenges of this life, it firmly remains in Him?

Our hope in Christ, as one source defines it, is the ***Trustful Expectation*** we find in our Lord's Promises, for it is here we will experience they are true and faithful, and we can put our confidence in them. All of them! Our hope in Christ is more than a desire for a favorable outcome, it is the assurance of it, even in the toughest of times when we are surrounded by darkness and strife. For when our confidence, our trust, our HOPE is in Him, we will begin recognizing what He has already accomplished in our lives in the past and find rest

in the guarantees of our Lord and what He will do in our future.

Coming to the place of confidence of Biblical Hope is a journey as the Scripture above reveals to us. It comes through the trials, errors,

Is your hope in what you can accomplish, or is your hope in Christ who has already completed it?

and struggles of life in Christ. For His Spirit is at work in our lives renewing our mind and transforming our lives (Rom 12:2). Renewing us to be a people who have a hope of the glory of God in our lives, which is evident in the transformation of who we were into who we are becoming in Him. ■



CAROLYN'S JOKE CORNER *Christmas Edition*

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

*I love when candy canes are in **mint condition!***

*Did you know that the Christmas tree trend started up because people thought it would **spruce things up a bit?***

What did one ornament say to the other?

I love hanging out with you!

What do you say when you give someone a set of spices for Christmas?

Season's Greetings!



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