



# Here We Grow!

December Edition

From Pastor Rob

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."*

(John 1:1-5, 12-14 NRSV)

I know the Thanksgiving turkeys have been eaten, the lights are up around town and the stores would have you believe that Christmas started weeks ago, but it has not really. Not yet! The time of waiting is upon us. John's gospel begins with a cosmic version of the Christmas story. Not that there were not shepherds, angels, cattle, and magi as suggested by the Lukan and Matthean accounts but the emphasis here is on the historicity or pre-historicity of the second person of God's Holy Trinity. The Word was and is God. The Word was in the beginning. And then suddenly, our finite connects with His infinite and Jesus is born in the flesh. God with us! Emmanuel! However, John's prologue makes us see that there was a time of waiting. From the beginning to the moment of Jesus' birth there is anticipation, hope, longing. And there is waiting now from the time of Jesus' death and resurrection to the end time when all shall see Him. There is coming a time when:

*"10...at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God, the Father."*

(Philippians 2:10-11 NRSV)

This historic time is mirrored in the season in which we find ourselves right now. Advent!

This season is named by a word which at its root means coming and waiting. When I got to college, I heard a phrase applied to certain organizations that went like this; "Hurry up and wait!" I always thought that was a contradiction, but it applies to many situations in our lives. Get in this line quickly or go there as soon as you can only to wait for the outcome. The time is now and yet it is not quite.

In our United Methodist Hymnal, the Advent hymns are the section called "Promised Coming." They go from #196 to #216, from "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" to "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming." Each hymn has that sense of expectation and wonder. The latter, though beautiful, is difficult to sing. I confess I feel much "safer" musically with "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (#251). I would much rather sing that song which is in the "Birth and Baptism" section. It is a Christmas song. Now, I am not opposed to singing Christmas songs during this time of the year (just ask my family about that), but, when it comes to Christmas, please do not forget Advent. And if we are being honest with ourselves, we do tend to forget. We would much rather skip to Christmas. But there is value in the waiting. There is life to be lived and ministry to be accomplished in the time of waiting for that which we know is certain.

The already not yet. The final thing that has not happened yet, but its outcome is so certain it is spoken about as if it is done. As Jesus said from the Cross also in John's gospel; "It is accomplished (finished)" (John 19:30 NRSV). He spoke that even though you and I, the beneficiaries of His redemption, had not yet been born. Praise the Lord that He has not been in a hurry to skip to the end. In His timing we have been able to respond to His message and be saved!

Take time this Advent to embrace the waiting. Look in this season for new and beautiful ways to respond to His call, and to include others in those responses. I do wish you a Merry Christmas, but I also wish for you a reflective and meaningful Advent.

Pastor Rob

## Mid-Week Prayer

O Lord, our God, in this first week of Advent we hold on to the hope of your coming. Help us to shine your light to all who we see this season. In your name we pray. Amen



## This Sunday...

It is the Second Sunday of Advent

Pastor Rob's scripture is - *Philemon 1-25*

The sermon title is - *Peace in Christ!*



## Looking to deepen your faith?

Tuesday, December 6th—  
Come to an Emmaus Gathering  
6:30pm in the Family Life Center



## Memorial Poinsettias

Poinsettias will once again beautify our Sanctuary this Christmas season!

Remember or honor a loved one with a beautiful poinsettia for \$10.

Call the church office or use the cards available at the back of the sanctuary, and drop in the offering plate. (817)790-3101



## Christmas Program December 18

This years Christmas Program will be held Sunday Dec 18th! The service will encompass a variety of Classic Sacred Christmas pieces that tell the beautiful story of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

During the bleak, mid-winter in the little town of Bethlehem, the night grew silent as the holy infant was born in a manger. The faithful sing on the tops of mountains this new joy to the world.

The Choir and Bell ensembles will be bringing these musical pieces to life as we sing and play together.

Students from Southwestern Adventist University will be joining the choir as well to make a joyful noise!



## 2022 Advent Season

Join Us for these special advent activities!

Sunday morning worship @10:30

Dec. 4 - Peace in Christ

Dec. 11 - Christ our Joy

Dec 18 - Christmas Music Program



Dec 25 - No Service - Enjoy this time with your family and friends

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24 - Candlelight Christmas Worship

6:00pm & 11:00pm

### Advent Bible Study

Based on—"The Redemption of Scrooge"

Led by Pastor Rob

Dec. 4, 11 & 18 @ 5:00pm in the sanctuary



## Youth Christmas Party!

December 18th- Youth Sunday Night will feature a Christmas party for all the youth!



## November Memorials

- \* Gerald and Nancy Owen to Backpack Food in memory of Ann Blair.
- \* Carolyn Sledge to Memorial Budget in memory of Leva Lee.
- \* Steve and Charlotte Pennock to local missions in memory of Leva Lee and Linda Daugherty.
- \* Gerald and Nancy Owen to Backpack Food in memory of Genesa Myres.
- \* Nicky and Carla Peikoff to Good Samaritan Fund in memory of Delbert Taylor.
- \* Nicky and Carla Peikoff to Helping Hands for Jesus in memory of Leva Lee.



## Prayer Request

- Healing from surgery for Ann Maxwell
- Comfort and peace for the Jim & Linda Russell family.
- Gay Griffith, healing and recovery from a car accident.
- Continued healing for Fred Harmon.
- Christa Owen, recovering and healing from surgery.
- Continued healing for Mary Blackburn, at Advent Health Rehab.
- Remember to pray for the Alvarado Intermediate School teachers, staff and students.

Prayer for others is at the heart of what we do as a congregation. When you contact us with a prayer request, it is prayed over by the Prayer Chain and in worship for 30 days. How can we pray for you today? Email or call with your request- [fumcalv@fumcalvarado.org](mailto:fumcalv@fumcalvarado.org) or (817)790-3101



## Alvarado Methodist Church

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