

Good morning,

Here we are in the second week of advent, eagerly anticipating so much to come. So much goodness, so much future grace, anticipating the birth of our savior into the world, anticipating getting back to a normal life. Anticipating promises.

There's something about this anticipation that renews our hope, in the world, hope that we aren't in this alone, hope that there will come a savior that will change everything.

I think the real question is what do we do with ourselves as we wait for promises to unfold? How do we prepare? We are decorating the churchyard today, stringing up some lights to brighten up that churchyard, in the face of the extra darkness that this season can bring. Light in the darkness.

That is the Christmas message that we wait for, light in the darkness.

So much of how we wait, so much of how we prepare takes place out there, but I want to talk about the kind of preparation that needs to happen in here. The kind of preparation that happens inside our hearts. The kind of preparation that draws us, deeper into the purpose that God has for each of our lives.

How do we know where to begin preparing? Many of the scriptures that we look to during advent instruct us to Repent! for the kingdom of God is at hand. Yall been repentin? There is freedom, in repentance. There is freedom in confession. In unburdening our lives, our spirit.

Putting down the weight of all the sin that we carry, it's the same as we confess each week, the things that we have done and the things done on our behalf.

I always like to joke and say that John the Baptist who we see in our gospel reading today is like the worlds first therapist. Urging people to dive in deep to themselves to reveal those things in each of our lives that we try to keep hidden. Those things that take us from where we know we need to be.

The thing about sin, is that it never is a once off event. Sin changes us the longer we live in it, that is the truth about Sin. What started off as one bad decision, not after too long begins to change us, from within. What started off as one bad decision has now changed our lives, now we are lying, now we are cheating, stealing. Repent! Turn away from it. Stop!

It was never God's plan for us to live lives that are changed by sin. Sin is life taking, its death, it is God desire for us to give life, to live lives that are full of the grace and the beauty that God has to offer us. It was never Gods desire for us to live in the shadow of sin.

There is power that comes from repentance. I think you know this, I think that you know that when we stop and invite Jesus into our lives and we begin to walk with him, I think you know that God can change everything.

And we thank God for Gods patience with us, lord knows we need it. Time after time we mess up, but we know that we can always stop what we are doing, and turn back to God. We thank God for Gods patience. God is eternally patient with us. Isnt that the good news?

God is patient with us, God is working some stuff out in each and every one of our lives. Do you believe that God is the power at work in your life, the power that is drawing you to the good? Do you believe it? I believe it; I believe it for us all. God is patient with us.

But are we patient with God? Do we want God to change our world change are lives, But God do it like right now. I repented God, your move. God's not instant coffee. God is working it out. But do we give god the time to work out what god needs to.

Peter in our epistle lesson says "Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.”

Wait on the Lord. That’s the message of this season of advent.

Wait on the lord. Do you believe it? Wait on the Lord. **I want every one to repeat after me. I will wait on the Lord.**

I will wait on the lord to save me, when im in my darkest hour I will wait on the lord. I will wait on the lord when I haven’t got a friend in the world, I will wait on the lord.

So during this season of advent as we wait, as we anticipate the coming of our lord, not only into the world, but into each one of our lives, wait on it. While we wait, we have to prepare, we have to string up those lights that we use, to bring light in the darkness, but we have to do that in our hearts, in our lives.

We have to Repent, turn from sin so that we might always meet the patient God, who helps and comforts, and waits on us to get it right.

Like peter says “Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.”

Wait on the Lord

Amen