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ADWENT,

The Coming Glory of God

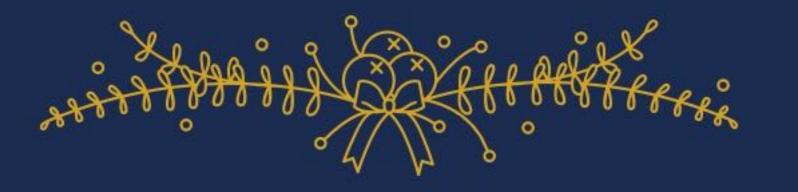




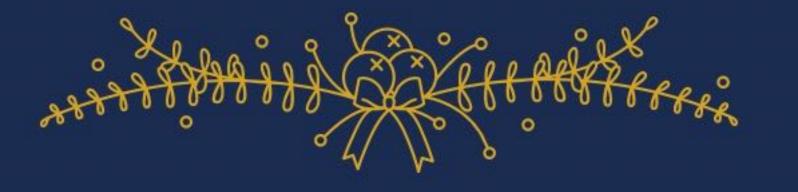
"The infinite God becoming a few pounds of human — could not be allowed to just happen; people needed to be prepared for it."

-J. John

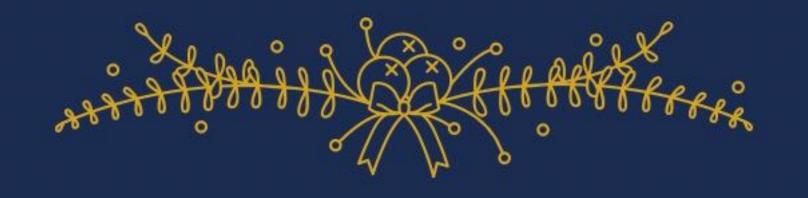




"We are made to find our <u>deepest joy</u> and <u>greatest</u> satisfaction not from whatever we want, but by surrendering to God's will."



My pastoral hope is that today's message moves us from knowing a story to knowing Jesus.



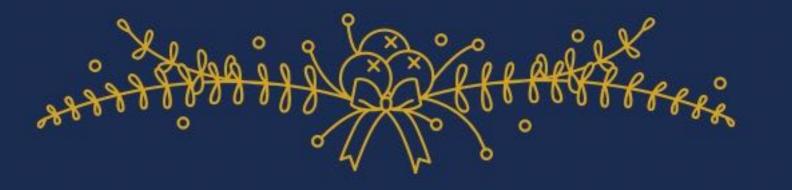
Key Texts:

Matthew 1:21

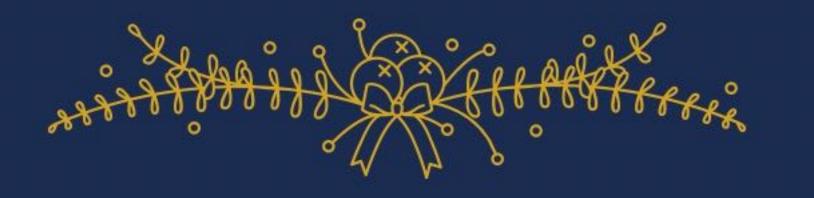
Luke 1:30-38, 2:10-14

1 Peter 1:10-12, 18-21

Philippians 2:5-11

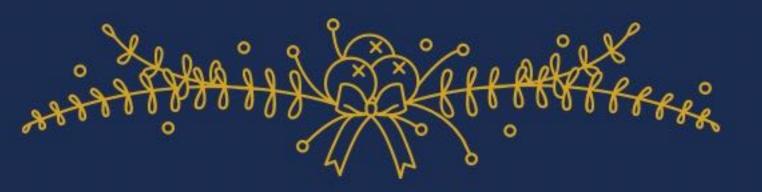


Adventmeans "arrival" or "coming".

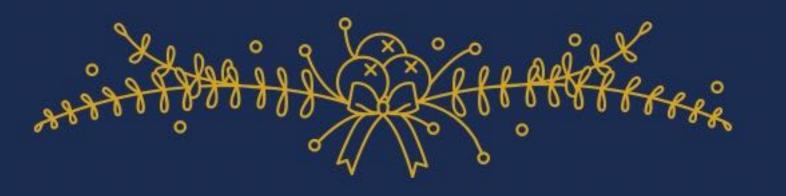


- 1. Advent looks BACKWARD.
 - Jesus was born during the "silent years".
 - Jesus' ancestry reminds us that we are part of a story much bigger than we understand.
 - Jesus' ancestry reminds us that God's grace is for all.

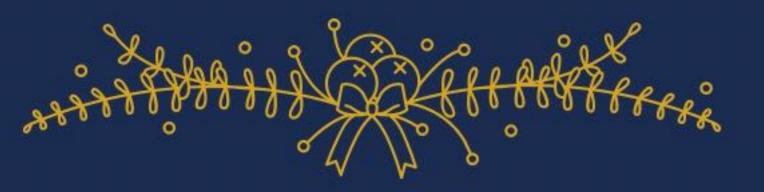




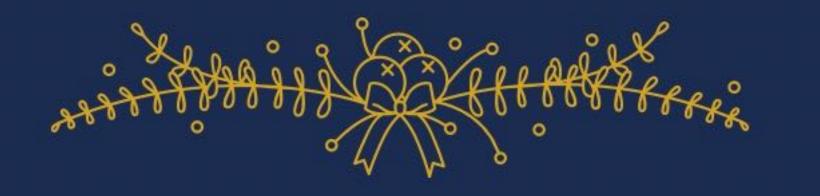
- 1. Advent looks BACKWARD.
 - Jesus' arrival is a re-establishing of humanity's intimacy with God and our partnerhsip in His purpose. (*Genesis 1:26-28, 4:26; Exodus 25:8; Acts 17:24-28; Ephesians 2:22; John 17:24*)



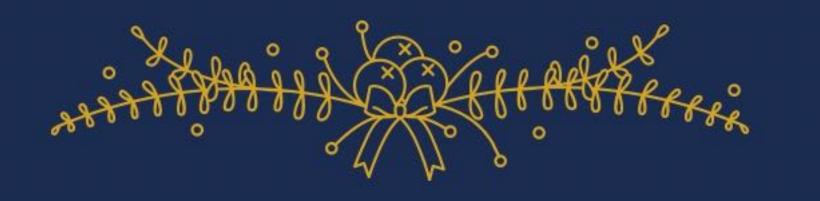
- Advent looks INWARD.
 - To help us experience the Christ that lives within us, let's look at some of the characters in the story of Jesus' birth.



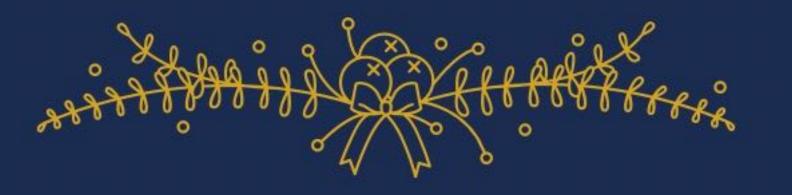
- 2. Advent looks INWARD.
 - As we reflect upon these men and women, each character offers us an opportunity to deepen, enrich, and ordain our purpose and relationship with Jesus.



- 2. Advent looks <u>INWARD</u>.
 - The way each of these characters respond to the arrival of Jesus, can assist us in our spiritual formation, function, and fruitfulness.



- 2. Advent looks <u>INWARD</u>.
 - Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)
 - Honor, Obedience, and Loyalty



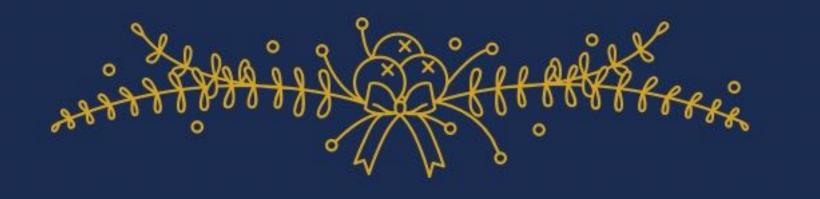
- 2. Advent looks INWARD.
 - Mary (Luke 1:38)
 - Meek Receptivity
 - Our "yes" to God changes lives.



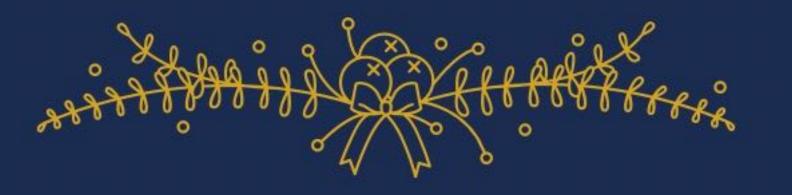
- 2. Advent looks INWARD.
 - Shepherds (Luke 2:8-17)
 - The "nobodys" of society.
 - The shepherds remind us that God chooses the least likely. (Moses, David, Joseph, Gideon, etc.)



- 2. Advent looks INWARD.
 - Shepherds (Luke 2:8-17)
 - Their response:
 - Do something. (Luke 2:15)
 - See Something. (Luke 2:16)
 - Say Something. (Luke 2:17)



- 2. Advent looks INWARD.
 - Shepherds (Luke 2:8-17)
 - Humble Seekers and Messengers



How can we participate with this message?

- 1. Believe the best about others.
- 2. Welcome what God is doing in you as you partner with others for prayer, encouragement, and feedback.
- 3. Pursue God and share your testimony with others.

