

FROM THE DEAR PEOPLE OF GOD,



Advent is come! Outside of Christendom, that three word sentence has no meaning. As a matter of fact, within Christendom, it is rather like saying something twice - like saying something twice.

Even the dictionary defines advent as a coming, an appearance, or an arrival. In the context of faith, Webster's dictionary defines Advent as the Second Coming. Not the first, mind you, but the second. The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible defines Advent simply as, "A term often used to designate the coming, or second coming of the Christ. See PAROUSIA." So Advent then, is the coming of the Coming of the Christ. What a far cry that is from the worldly view of "the Christmas season."

Advent used to be, and still should be, the time of year that the faithful reflected on the first coming of the Christ and what that glorious event has done for them. Reflection on how we ARE, as opposed to how we should be, was and is the point. Recognition of our falling short of the glory of God is also the point. Why? So that as we celebrate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth on Christmas Day, we would be celebrating the greatness of the free gift of the Lord God of Hosts; God's own action to reconcile us and all of creation to himself.

Advent also used to be, and still should be, the season in which we contemplate the Second Coming of the Christ. The angels told Jesus' disciples as they stood staring into heaven after the Ascended Christ, that he would come again in the same way as they saw him go. At that time, the Kingdom of Heaven will be experienced on earth in it's fullness - the Parousia. The earth will be reconciled to God and each other in Jesus Christ - in it's fullness. How much of that thought permeates the minds and the hearts of even the faithful in this glorious season of God's power, authority and majesty?

Celebrate the season! Celebrate it with all and in every way you can. Celebrate that the Creator of all that you are, all that you will be, and all that you have has come that you would know him and love him as he loves you.

Wouldn't it be grand if when someone asks, and someone undoubtedly will, "What did you get for Christmas?"; we would answer. "I got eternal life with my Papa." And wouldn't it be glorious if we then asked them, "What did you get?"

God bless you and keep you,
and hold you always
in the palm of his hand,
Fr. Tommy+



HERE IS TO ALL
THE SAINTS
CELEBRATING IN
DECEMBER

Carolyn Babb	12/05	Harmony Addison	12/19
Jacob Upchurch	12/06	Ethan Langdale	12/21
Eleanor Milling	12/15	Jill Upchurch	12/23
Gen Palmer VI	12/17	Jennifer Palmer	12/28
Diane Gunter	12/18		

Sr. Warden:	JoAnn Palmer	2011
Jr. Warden:	Tom Willingham	2009
Member:	Mike Autry	2010
Member:	Bob Moore	2010
Member:	Ben DeBerry	2011
Member:	MJ Lever	2009
Secretary:	???	2009
Treasurer:	Carolyn Babb	2009



In just two weeks, Saturday, December 13 we will be undertaking the annual "Greening of the Church" along with the placing and the decorating of the Chrismon Tree. We will begin at 9:30am. Women, men, boys and girls, everyone is invited and needed. There is something that you can do to participate. Windows need to be decorated. High and low ornaments on the tree need to be placed. And the greening of the arch usually requires the men on ladders. Father Dwyer will see that there is coffee, cider and coffee cake available. See you there!!



Each Sunday of Advent, we will maintain our normal study and worship schedule. Sunday School we be at 9:30am and worship will begin at 10:30am.

Saturday, December 13 we "green" the church and place the Chrismon Tree beginning at 9:30am.

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve
Hospitality sponsored by the MOSS will begin at 10:00pm.

The Midnight Service will be at 11:00pm.

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day
The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 10:30am.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMUNITY FOODBANK

JABER

The volunteers at Fairfield Community Foodbank are cheerfully grateful for any non-perishable foodstuffs we deliver to them. However, there are some items they need more urgently than others. In alphabetical order these are:

- Applesauce
- Biscuit Mix ("Jiffy Mix", or a generic)
- Evaporated Milk
- Jelly
- Rice (especially the "instant" or Boil-in-Bag varieties)

Also, the smaller sizes are more useful than the larger sizes for Foodbank distribution. They'd rather have three 1 lb. bags than one 5 lb. bag of anything.

No, *Jaber* is not the name of some obscure Assyrian deity. I made it up from the first letters of the five foods most needed, expecting an enigmatic headline to grab your attention. Was I right?

Yours in Christ,
Bob King