



Nov. 28 - Jan. 9

As Christians, we learn the message of Jesus Christ from the Bible. Specifically, the story of what Jesus did and taught here on earth is found in the gospels. These gospels are the first four books of what we call the New Testament. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John sit in the beginning to tell the stories of Jesus. And believe it or not, each of the four Gospels are completely different writings! Each author had a different reason to tell the story, a different audience listening or reading, and a different lesson that was being taught. They are as different as you and your sibling telling the story of the same vacation you took that time with your family.

This Advent, we are spending some time with each Gospel writer. What does each say about Jesus? More importantly, what does their Christmas story tell us about Jesus and the work of God in the world?

Just for fun, if each gospel writer had a home, what would it look like?

Join us for worship as we explore Christmas through the eyes of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John.

~ 1 ~

Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021

"Come, Emmanuel"

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-15, 19-23

Matthew loves family photos. Matthew brings our attention back to the generations preceding Jesus' birth. How has your family shaped who you are? Sometimes, we choose a life different than our family of origin. How do you let your family shape you while maintaining autonomy? How do you celebrate your heritage while maintaining your identity?

~ 2 ~

Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021

"Come, Jesus Christ, Son of God"

Mark 1:1-11

If Mark were decorating his house, he would skip the other ornaments and go straight for a simple cross. From Mark's perspective, the cross, not the cradle, is the key symbol for the entire Gospel house. What does that mean to you? How important is Christmas, really? How does the cradle point to the cross?

Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021

"Come, our Savior, Christ the Lord"

Luke 2:1-14

Luke's ornaments would be all the things: the donkey and cow, the dove and camel, the full house. All those things that we think about for the first Christmas, Luke would have them. Luke is the gospel that gives us the Christmas we know best, a place of warmth and safety, despite there being no room in the inn. What are the things of this season that bring you feelings of warmth and safety? How are you making that happen for other people?

~ 3 ~

Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021

***“Come, Jesus Christ, light of the world,
Word made flesh”***

John 1:1-5, 14

John has the entire earth in mind when he’s writing about Jesus. John traces Christ back, not to the manger or to the ancestors, but to the dawn of creation. In the beginning, he says. How are we expanding our sight this season to include all of creation? What “green” choices do you need to make? How can you reduce your carbon footprint in a very wasteful season? How do you include all the world, everyone, in your festivities?

~ 4 ~

Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021

“Come, Mighty One”

Luke 1:46b-55

Before Mary gave birth, when the angel told her she would be with child, she rejoiced. Note what she gives praise for. Note what she foretells God is doing. On this day, rejoice. Make note of all the things that you can praise God for. Make notes of all the ways God has been with you. Perhaps your Christmas Day wasn’t the Hallmark card we expect. How can you rejoice anyway?

~ 5 ~

Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022

“Come, Messiah”

Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men offered gifts of great value. They traveled far and gave lavishly. How do you give to God? Are you a lavish giver? Do you go out of your way to give? Determine what you might give to God in this new year.

~ 6 ~

Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022

“Come, Beloved”

John 18:33-37; Joel 2:21-27

When the Spirit descends on Jesus at his baptism, a voice spoke for all to hear, naming Jesus as the Son of God, and God’s beloved. Notice this was before Jesus even did anything! When you spend time listening for the Spirit, what does it say to you? You, too, should know that God calls you Beloved. Before you ever set out in life, you are Beloved. Even after you try and fail to live a Christ-filled life, you are Beloved. How does this change your attitude toward yourself and the world?

~ 7 ~