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Advent: Renewal in a Time of Preparation

There are two preparation themes that inform the Season of Advent. Themes of preparation for the humble birth of the Christ child and preparation for the triumphant return of the Christ, both are at the core of Christian Advent.

If one explores the two preparation themes of Advent, we find several invitations and opportunities. Now, to prepare for the tiny Christ child asks for an open, tender heart. We are invited to embrace a sense of wonder in the Christmas ancient story of Angels, and humans involved together in the incarnation and birth event.

Our Christian story of Christmas brings into focus the vital partnership of God and man, as well as, the humble beginning of Christ. As part of our preparation, we are invited into a time of spiritual renewal—an opportunity to renew the spiritual disciplines of daily prayer, meditation, and reconciliation with God and our fellow humans.

In our preparations for the Second Advent we are invited to re-examine our lives in the light of Christ's first and Second Coming. Each year during Advent, we are asked to live into accountability as a part of the Christian story. I think we are called to ask ourselves how can we better live out the mission of Christ to spread his kingdom of love on earth? With our preparation of the Second Coming we also led to spiritual renewal and further still, we are led to a renewal and rededication of our Christian life and practice.

Each year the preparation for the baby and the king offer to us the promise of renewal and rededication. Each year we can begin again with our lives as Christians and our hopes for the future. I wish and pray that all of our church family will take advantage of the advent season to renew their lives in and for Christ. ja+

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