

CONNECTING MEOTA November 22nd, 2023

This newsletter is meant to inspire, engage, and encourage everyone in the Meota Parish to seek God and reach out to one another throughout the week.

**Our next church service will be
Sunday November 26th, 10:30 am
at St. George's or Christ Church Millarville
and St. James invites you to join us
at Christ Church or St George's this Sunday !**

Please enjoy our autumn weather and attend one of our lovely churches in the Meota parish. The stained-glass windows at each church are beautiful. The services are upbeat and the fellowship is friendly. Please join us.

**Join Us For Worship
In Person Services Sunday @ 10:30am
Christ Church, Millarville & St. George's, Diamond Valley**



PRAYER AND PRAISE

Thursday

7pm

November 23rd

at St. George's

come for the music

come for the prayer

come for the feeling of peace



Thou wilt
keep him in
perfect peace,
whose mind
is stayed on
thee: because
he trusteth in
thee.

ISAIAH 26:3

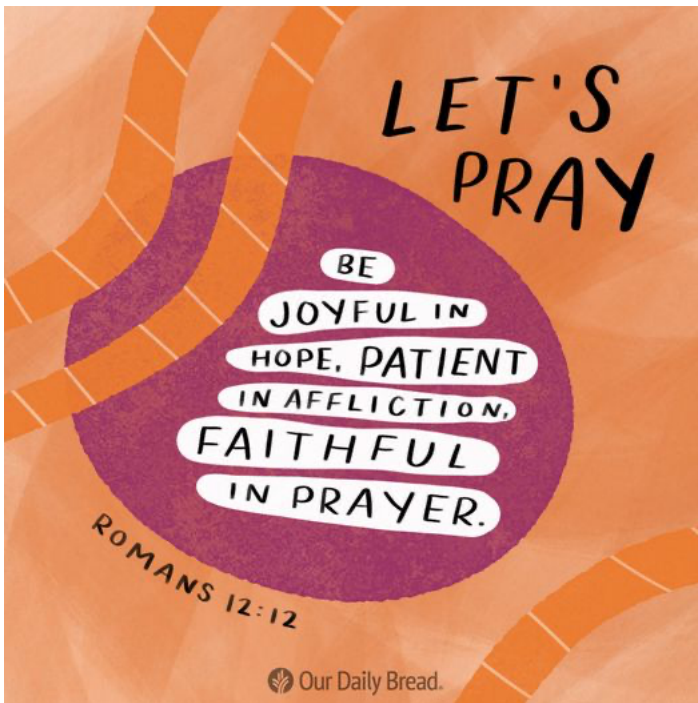


"Worry is
like a rocking chair;
it keeps you busy
but does not bring
you farther."

—Corrie ten Boom

TENBOOM.ORG


MUCH LOVE FROM HARVEY



LET'S
PRAY

BE
JOYFUL IN
HOPE, PATIENT
IN AFFLICTION,
FAITHFUL
IN PRAYER.

ROMANS 12:12

 Our Daily Bread.

THE PEOPLE OF CHRIST CHURCH PACKED SHOEBOXES FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD





We have hope, because the
impossible is *possible* with God.





What is Advent?

Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning “coming or arrival.” Churches around the world have celebrated Advent as the first season of the liturgical year for centuries.

The tradition of Advent exists to remind Christians of the three comings of Christ.

As a tiny babe in a manger at Bethlehem.

As the risen Savior into our hearts.

As our triumphant King at the end of the age.

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve.

There are many ways to celebrate the Advent season, but the general themes that correspond with each week are as follows:

Week 1: Promise. The HOPE candle

Week 2: Preparation. The PEACE candle

Week 3: Peace. The JOY candle

Week 4: Praise. The LOVE candle

Why celebrate Advent?

One of the greatest joys of Christmas is the anticipation of celebrating with family and opening gifts around the tree.

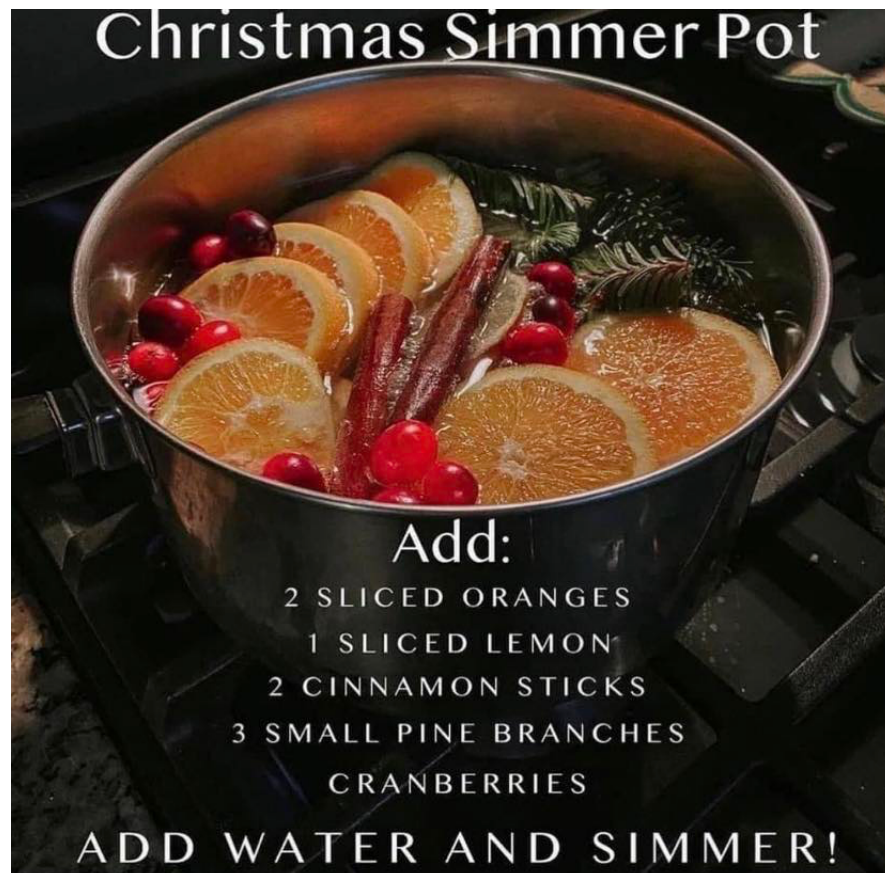
But the holiday is so much more than that for Christ-followers.

Christmastime is a season to remember all Christ has done for us and anticipate all He has promised to do for us in the future.

He came and died.
He saved us from our sin.
He is coming again!

The purpose of Advent is to rekindle our hope by remembering the prophecies and promises of God.

When we commit to an Advent Scripture reading plan, we create space for Christ during one of the busiest times of the year.



ADVENT

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women."

– Pope Francis



FIRST SUNDAY

The first candle on the Advent wreath represents Hope – the first Sunday of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. It is purple, the primary color of Advent and a color symbolizing royalty. Sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle," the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.

📅 Sunday, December 3

SECOND SUNDAY

The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace and is also purple. Often called the "Bethlehem Candle," this candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. It also builds on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, recalling that after the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth.

📅 Sunday, December 10

THIRD SUNDAY

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. It takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, it is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy.

📅 Sunday, December 17

FOURTH SUNDAY

The fourth candle of Advent represents Love, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the "Angel's Candle," the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the color purple, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth.

📅 Sunday, December 24

Last Sunday after Pentecost: The Reign of Christ

Sunday, November 26th, 2023

Readings

EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24; PSALM 100; EPHESIANS 1:15-23; MATTHEW 25:31-46

First Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. **I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak,** but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24

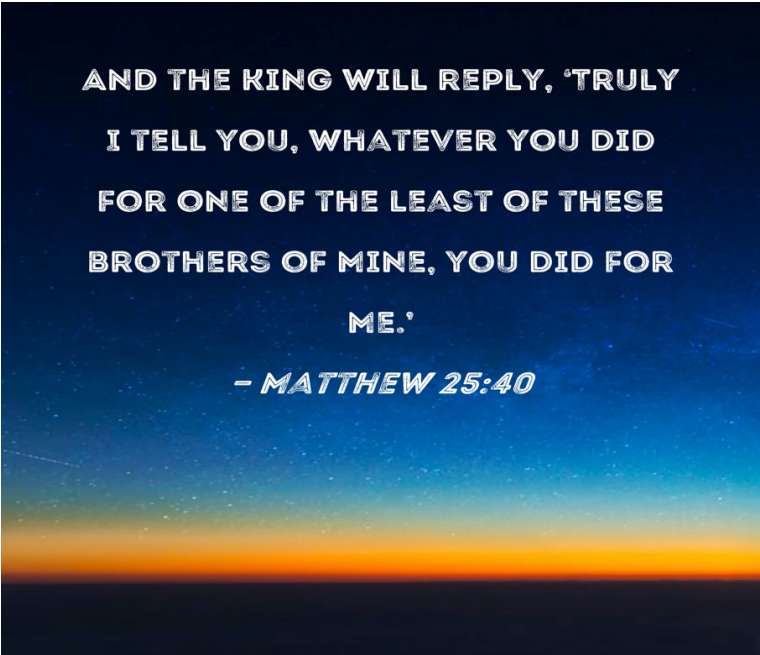


Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; **for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.**' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, '**Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.**' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

MATTHEW 25:31-46



AND THE KING WILL REPLY, 'TRULY
I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID
FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE
BROTHERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR
ME.'

— MATTHEW 25:40

THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By **BIL KEANE**



"Sayin' 'Amen' is like pressing the 'SEND' button for your prayers."

THINK AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS SERVICES – IS THERE SOMEONE YOU CAN INVITE??



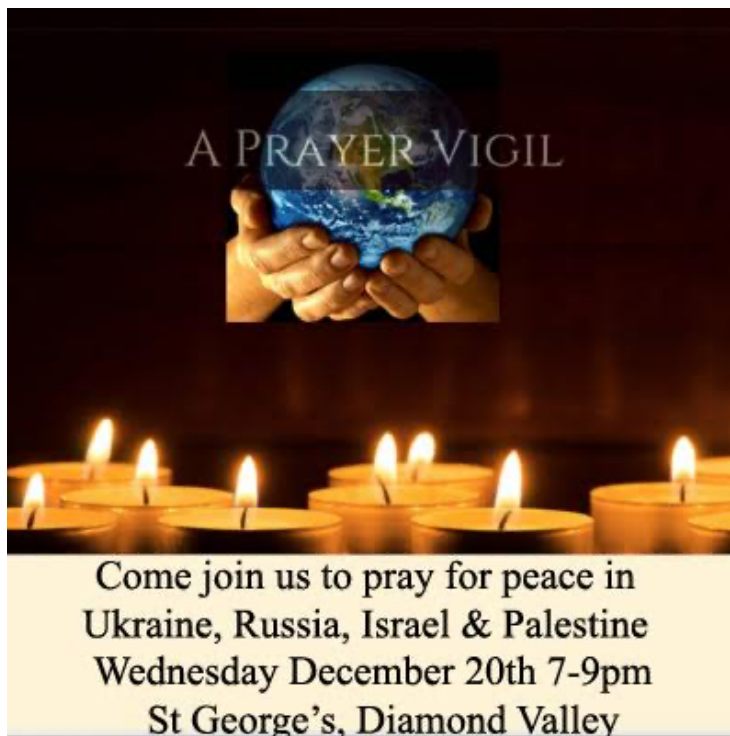
Meota Christmas Services 2023
Join us for the holidays!

Lessons & Carols (Sunday Dec. 17th)
Single Service @ St. George's 10:30am

Christmas Eve (Sunday Dec. 24th)
Single Service @ Christ Church 10:30am
St. George's 4:00pm
St. James 6:30pm
Christ Church 9:00pm

Christmas Day (Monday Dec. 25th)
Single Service @ St. George's 10:30am

New Year's Day (Monday Jan. 1st)
Single Service @ Christ Church 10:30am



A PRAYER VIGIL

Come join us to pray for peace in
Ukraine, Russia, Israel & Palestine
Wednesday December 20th 7-9pm
St George's, Diamond Valley

GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD!



Alleluia!!!