



**MINISTRY. ATTITUDE. PRAYER. STUDY.**  
***The Journey* Worship Service — Advent Week 1**

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***“Is There Room?” : Worship Fully***  
**“Road Construction”**

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**Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7**

1 But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. 6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Isaiah 40:3-5**

3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:

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Devotions taken from "Advent, A Calendar of Devotions" by Robert Dodd

**MONDAY 11.30.09 Matthew 3:1-3**

John the Baptist began preaching in the region around the river Jordan. He called people to be baptized as a sign of repentance in order to “prepare the way of the Lord.” It is also our task to get ready for the coming of the Lord by being prepared and expectant, and encouraging others to be ready. Even if we have known God for years, we still need to be prepared for fresh experiences of the Lord in our lives.

- How can you prepare your heart for a fresh experience during Advent this year?

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**WEDNESDAY 12.2.09 Matthew 1:22-23**

Before we get caught up in the frenzied pace of Christmas shopping, we need to remind ourselves and others of the seldom truly appreciated words, “Jesus is the reason for the season.” His name is forever *Emmanuel*, and that means “God is with us.” John Wesley’s last words on his deathbed were, “The best of all is, God is with us.” This is the best news of all because if God is with us, then nothing, not even death, can ultimately defeat us. That is certainly good news worth sharing with others.

- What does it mean to you to know that “God is with us”?
  - Is your life different because of this reality?

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**TUESDAY 12.1.09 Isaiah 9:1-4**

People sometimes ask, "Can you see the light at the end of the tunnel?" They want to know if there is any hope. Where is there hope in life? Hope both encourages life and gives meaning to life.

Israel in Isaiah's day was also in need of hope and encouragement. The prophet gave them hope by writing of the future as if it were the past (Isaiah 9:20). He spoke of Israel's hope as if it were a sure thing, confident of it as if it had already happened. But the hope of Israel would also prove to be the hope of all nations.

- Where do you find your hope in this Advent season?

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**THURSDAY 12.3.09 Genesis 15: 1-6**

Abraham and Sarah were already well beyond the years of having children. They had long since given up any hope of having biological descendants. One of their servants had been designated to inherit their estate.

But then God came to Abraham and told him that God would give him more descendants than he would be able to count. When all seemed lost, God stepped in and gave Abraham and Sarah hope.

- How is God seeking to give you hope?
- What impossible situation are you dealing with that God can redeem?

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**FRIDAY 12.4.09 John 1:19-23**

During the season of Advent, we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ's coming. Like John the Baptist, we can prepare the way for the Lord through our words, our actions, and our attitudes. We can also help others understand the true meaning of Christmas. Our mutual love for Jesus and our joy in celebrating his birth can potentially bring people from every possible life circumstance together in Christian fellowship.

- Whom do you know that you can invite to church to experience the hope of God's love for themselves this Advent season?

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**SATURDAY 12.5.09 Luke 1:67-79**

The strain of relationships, a job, one's health, or any other loss seems even more devastating during this season. When you add to that the stress and pressure of continual holiday activities that can leave you more tired and exhausted than inspired, energized, and revitalized, Advent can be a tough time. Here are some suggestions for maintaining your focus on the real meaning of Advent:

- Remember the real meaning of the season, the birth of our Savior
  - Celebrate Advent through attending worship
- Attend events where you can be with friends and family
  - Do something to help someone else

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