



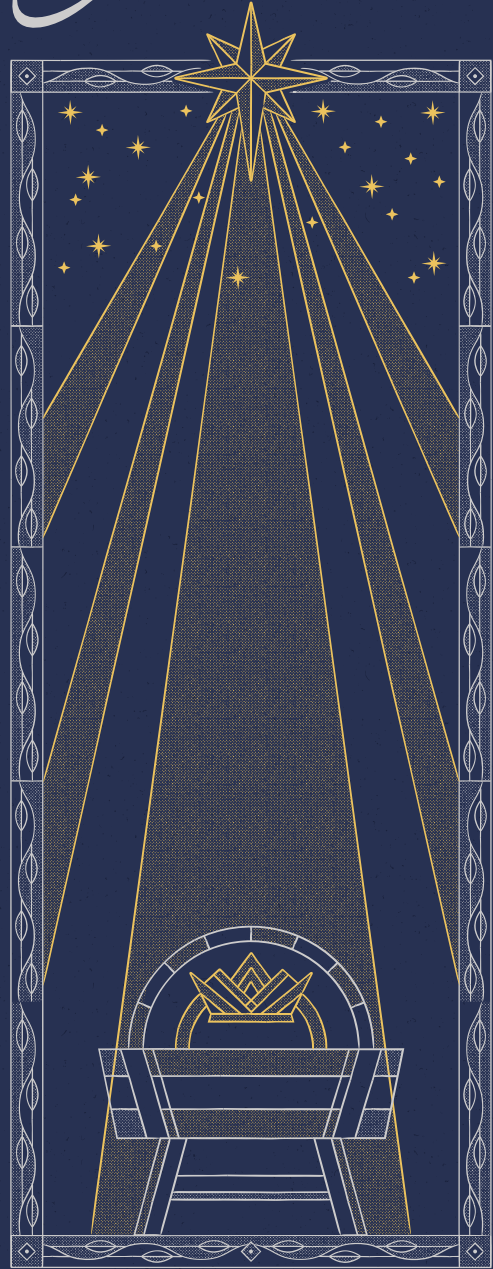
Sunday mornings at Currey Creek look a little different during the Advent season. It is intentional. If you have been around a while, you may know what to expect, if you are new just know this is not normal. During this season we lean more into liturgy. I learned a long time ago that no matter your service content and flow everyone follows a liturgy. It is

an order, a structure of service. During this season, in order to slow down and deeply reflect on Christ, we fall to the more reverent side. That's why we "suit up", as the pastors call it. It's why we implement candle lightings and participate in more corporate scripture readings and prayers than usual. It's why the worship is stripped down a bit and more traditional.

We want this season of Sunday morning services to be sweet and reverent times of worship. My hope is that this season of Advent better prepares you to celebrate Christmas. It is an exciting time! I look forward to celebrating it with you.

With love,
Isac Guajardo
Pastor of Worship and Arts

BEHOLD THE *Miracle*



OF THE *Savior's* BIRTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FIRST NOEL

Wednesday, December 13th

Please join us on December 13th at 6:30PM for the Creek Kids' production of "The First Noel." After the play all are invited to join us for cookies and cocoa in the lobby.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TIMES

Sunday, December 24th

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Services at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00AM Sunday, December 24th as we celebrate the miracle of our Savior's birth.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S SPRING BIBLE STUDY

Samuel: A Man Devoted to God

Join us starting the week of January 14th!

Men's

Sundays | 7:00-8:00AM

Women's

Wednesdays | 9:30-11:30AM or 6:30-8:00PM

For more information and registration visit:

curreycreek.com/men and

curreycreek.com/women

BAPTISM SUNDAY

Sunday, January 21st

If you are interested in getting baptized, please call the church at 830-755-8806 to set up an appointment with a pastor.

Christmas Eve Services

8:00 • 9:30 • 11:00AM

Creek Kids offered for
Birth-2 years at 9:30 only.

PRAYER POINTS

Please be praying for Advent at Currey Creek:

- Pray that Advent would be a season of hope and expectation for believers.
- Pray for those who find the holidays difficult, that they would experience the hope and healing of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that Advent will be a season filled with new believers who can join in the hope that we have as Christ-followers.

Romans 15:13 — *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

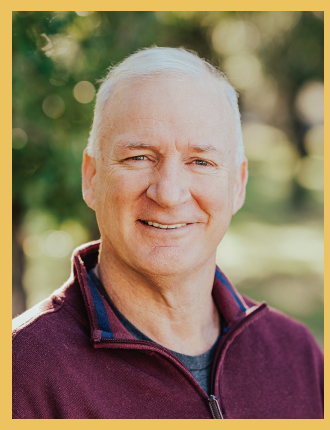
Please be praying for our Missions Partners:

- Pray for those who may experience loneliness as they are away from families during this Holiday season.
- Pray that our local, national, and international missions partners would bring the message of hope to those around them in the holiday season.

Matthew 19:29 – *And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.*



ADVENT



Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. Hebrews 1:1-2

Awhile back Darla and I went to Minnesota to visit our daughter, Kristen. I wanted to go to a small town south of Minneapolis named Red Wing to see the factory where the famous boots are made. Red Wing sits on the banks of the mighty Mississippi, whose headwaters are located in Lake Itasca State Park, MN.

At its head, the river is only 18 ft. wide, knee deep, and not very impressive. But by the time the river reaches Red Wing it flows at an average of 29,846 cubic feet per second! How can this be? Confluence. By the time the Mississippi reaches Red Wing it has been joined by small streams and rivers like the St. Croix. When the Mississippi and Missouri come together at St. Louis, MO the flow has increased to 182,892 cfs with a maximum rate recorded at over 1 million cfs!

When we approach Advent correctly, we get to see and experience the grandeur of what is the world's greatest story. A magnificent story of the history of redemption. We see two great streams come together that form a mighty river that speaks deep truths concerning creation, the fall, and God's judgement. We read of the giving of the Law and the thunderous voices of the prophets as the decry the spiritual barrenness of God's people along with the promise that God will restore them through the coming Messiah.

Despite all its majestic themes, one is left wanting at the close of the Old Testament. How will God bring about his promises? How will God change the human heart so that it is drawn to Him rather than fleeing from Him? It is not until we open the Gospels and read of Immanuel, the Lamb of God, Jesus, that we see how God is bringing about the redemption of mankind and the restoration of all things that we catch a glimpse of God's eternal purposes for His creation. It is through Jesus, God's Son that we see the confluence of promises made and promises fulfilled. Jesus is God's final Word and Advent provides an occasion for us to dive deep into the rich story of God's eternal purposes fulfilled in the coming of His Son. May each of our hearts prepare room for Him.

Blessings,
John Free
Senior Pastor



Hope

'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'the one who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.' Revelation 1:8. In our lives we can often place our hope in many things. Things like circumstances, careers, retirement, health, or even in people. But true hope, genuine hope, Biblical hope is anchored in the Lord and His promises. Biblical hope says that no matter the brokenness, no matter the situation, no matter the joy, no matter the pain – God is still God. He is ruling and reigning. He is almighty. And He is king. All Hail King Jesus. May you live in that hopeful reality today.

Stuart Head
Executive Pastor



Peace

The Old Testament word for peace is the word *shalom*. Dr. John Durham has argued that nearly 65 percent of the time it describes fulfillment, completeness, success, and/or security. In nearly half of all its uses, *shalom* is explicitly or by implication tied to the experience of the presence of God. For example, in Numbers 6:24-26, God tells Aaron to bless the people by saying “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD cause his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his face to you and give you peace.” According to Moises Silva, *shalom* here “describes the experience of the person who fully enjoys the presence of Yahweh, being blessed, guarded and treated graciously by him.” Wholeness, or fulfillment, comes from walking face to face with God.

The problem is since the days of Adam and Eve mankind has been separated from God.

Isaiah speaks about *shalom* more than any other book. In the midst of a broken covenant with God, the message comes to the people of God: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of *Shalom*. Of the increase of his government and of *shalom* there will be no end.” The rest of the book of Isaiah reveals that the Prince of *Shalom* will bring about a covenant of peace between God and man (Isa. 54:1-17). How? Because the punishment which has brought about our shalom was upon Jesus.

Our Prince of *Shalom* lives and intercedes for *you* today. He washes your sins, tears the veil for you, and allows you to access the presence of God with boldness. We are at peace with God so that we can enjoy the presence of God, and only in the presence of God do we find true peace. Will you seek his face this Advent season?

Logan Talamas
Student Pastor



Joy

But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today... a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

The moment they all were waiting for...when the fulfillment of God's promise of a Redeemer had arrived! I can't imagine the joy that washed over Mary and Joseph after months of anticipation. The past nine months of hardships, uncertainty, and frustrations must have paled in comparison to the joy they experienced as they gazed into the promise fulfilled in the beloved face of their child King.

Our source of joy is from God and is a product of what God has done and will continue to do. This joy overflows from a well-spring of the love and faithfulness of God. As Christmas draws near, may we reflect on the joy we have that is anchored in Jesus alone. No matter our circumstances or how dark this world may seem, He is our light and in Him we have hope with joy everlasting!

Marissa McCoy
Director of Children's Ministry



Love

Jesus says in John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” Jesus' life was filled with examples of how he loved people. He did not just tell people how much he loved them, he showed people how much he loved them. He loved people by serving them, by praying for them, rejoicing with them, sitting with them in their sorrow and suffering and by sharing the good news of the Gospel with them. His examples of loving people should be examples that we follow as we seek to love the people that God has put in our lives. This involves denying ourselves and choosing others as Jesus did.

Not long after Jesus spoke these words in John, he went on to demonstrate the greatest act of love ever demonstrated – dying on the cross for you and for me. May we always remember Jesus' greatest act of love as we show people how much we love them.

Bobby Langenbahn
Adult Ministries Pastor