

November 29, 2020

Advent 1 | The Waiting Place

Getting Ready

Good morning boys and girls, and welcome to Children's Chapel. I am glad that you are here and that we are together with Jesus.

As we get ourselves ready for this time together, let us sit quietly in our sacred spaces and light our candles.

First, we light the Christ candle and as we light it, let us remember that Jesus is the light of the world and that God sent Jesus to teach us all about God and how much God loves us. Next, we light the three smaller candles that represent all of us here as we sit at the feet of Jesus.

In my sacred space, I also have a cross that reminds me that Jesus died for us so that we can experience life with God forever. I also have 3 prayer rocks here that help me to focus on my time with Jesus.

And now that we are ready, we can begin today's teaching.

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Theme

Celebrating Jesus' birth and waiting for his return

Object

Book - "Oh, the Places You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss

Scripture

Full Scripture - *Mark 13:24-37*

Key verses: "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster

crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" *Mark 13:35-37 (NIV)*

I have heard that a 70-year-old person has actually spent 3 years of their life just waiting: waiting in line at the grocery store, waiting in the doctor's office, waiting for lunch to be ready, waiting for recess time at school.

In his book *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, Dr. Seuss talks about a place called "the waiting place." He describes it as a useless place where people are just waiting:

*Waiting for a train to go
or a bus to come, or a plane to go
or the mail to come, or the rain to go
or the phone to ring, or the snow to snow
or waiting around for a Yes or No
or waiting for their hair to grow.
Everyone is just waiting.*

I don't particularly like waiting, do you? I don't like it, but I don't know of any way to avoid it. We all have to spend some time in this "waiting place" that Dr. Seuss talks about, but I don't think it has to be a useless place. While we are waiting, life goes on, and we must make good use of our time. What can we do? Well, we could read a good book or call a friend on the phone. We could make a list of things we need to do today or, we could even study for our weekly spelling test. Well, maybe that's going a bit too far, but there are many productive or helpful things we can while we are waiting.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent means "to come." Do you know what's coming? Of course, Christmas is coming. This is an exciting time, but it may also be a difficult time of waiting -- especially for children. Waiting for the day when you can open the gifts that you see under the tree. What can we do to make this time of waiting for Christmas more than just a useless time in the waiting place? Well, we can think about the true meaning of Christmas. We can think about the birth of Jesus and of God's love for all of us in becoming human. We can think of ways we can giving in addition to receiving. We can look around and enjoy all of the beautiful music and

the decorations of the season. When we do those things, we will find joy in the waiting place.

We are waiting for Christmas, but we are also waiting for something else. We are waiting for Jesus' return. He told us that he would come again and he told us to watch and be ready for him. What should we do while we are waiting? We should worship and praise him, love and serve him, and share his love with others. When we are doing those things, we will be ready for his return, and we will find joy in the waiting place.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we spend time in this waiting place, we look forward with great joy to the celebration of Jesus' birth and to the day when he comes again. Amen.

Closing

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen

What kinds of things can you do to prepare to meet Jesus?

Look up Matthew 25:13.