

advent :: the story unfolds

6 December
2015

What does it take to make a miracle happen?

In our limited perspective, we sometimes imagine God with sparkling magic potions carefully arranged in a glittering heavenly toolbox. Maybe a few wands thrown in for the tough jobs.

But God's best work has always been done using amazingly ordinary stuff – water, mud, spit, a piece of stale bread, a barn, a teenage girl – everyday objects and ordinary people.

This weekend's worship is a call to gather in close, to watch the unexpected story of God's miraculous work in a faraway place – through ordinary people.

How will the miracle of God's unexpected story unfold through you this Advent season?

Here are some reflection verses and questions to help us in the journey.

HOPE ❄️ JOY ❄️ PEACE ❄️ LOVE

Day 1: **Luke 1:26-80**

Really pay attention to the two "songs" in this chapter.

- According to these songs, who is God for?
- Whom will God eventually elevate?
- What do these songs have to say to us about God's upside-down nature and activities?
- How do they encourage you this holiday season?

Day 2: **Colossians 1:24-29 and 1 Corinthians 15:9-11**

The mystery of the Gospel is that God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

- What ordinary person have you seen God work a miracle through?

Day 3: **Matthew 1:18-25**

- What do you think was going through Joseph's mind when he found out Mary was pregnant?
- What are some things we can learn from Joseph's character?

Day 4: **Isaiah 9:1-7**

Peace is often mentioned alongside justice and righteousness.

- What does that tell us about what peace is?
- How does that differ from what we tend to think of what peace is?

Day 5: **Isaiah 52**

Put verse **7** into your own words.

- Who is someone in your life whom you could bring this good news to?

Day 6: **Isaiah 58**

- Why is God so frustrated with the people?
- How does God want his people to live?
- How does this passage challenge you?
- How does it encourage you?

Day 7: **Isaiah 61**

Advent is about imagining a world set right and anticipating God's promised future. This passage is a description of that future.

- What about this passage encourages you the most?
- In what ways are you partnering with Jesus in making this world a reality?