



Faith Talk

Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

Worshiping Sundays 9 am and 3 pm, 2553 Binbrook Rd E

Lives of Advent

By Deanna Smid

Grocery stores are selling their Halloween candy at half price, and are replacing their pumpkin displays with bins of foil-wrapped chocolate balls. The Christmas season is upon us. The time approaching Christmas is commonly called Advent, because we look forward to celebrating a momentous event, the birth of Christ.

Advent is not just limited to December, however. The Israelites in the Old Testament lived their entire lives awaiting the birth of the man God had promised to send to them. This man, Christ, would be their deliverer. The great joy with which God's people looked forward to their Messiah is apparent throughout the Bible, and especially in the book of Isaiah. Isaiah 9: 6 reads, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." These words, which we hear so often in Handel's Messiah, describe the great hope the people of Israel had for the advent of their savior.

Just like the Israelites lived awaiting the birth of Christ, so we wait for the return of Jesus. We do not have to wait for Christ's birth, because he has already come, as we celebrate every Christmas. He will return again, and this is the advent for which we hope. After Jesus was resurrected and he returned to heaven, the angels promised his followers, "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1: 11). Therefore, our whole lives, not just every year in December, we celebrate the advent of Christ's return to come and take us to live with him in the new heaven and earth.

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