



Kenilworth Church

PC(USA)

Advent 2017

From Our Pastor

Advent derives from the Latin term *adventus* meaning coming or arrival. Historians may use the term as they describe the beginning of something like the advent of the computer age or the advent of cell phones. From a Christian perspective, we are looking forward to and preparing for the arrival of Christ—Immanuel—God with us. It is also the beginning of the liturgical year.

For the vast majority of Christians, the season comprises the four Sundays before Christmas. We light candles on an advent wreath—one each Sunday—and this reminds us of the light of Christ entering a dark world bringing the hope of salvation.

As we celebrate this season in our community, let us also prepare as individuals. Let us open our hearts and minds to receive Christ and make room in our lives for the presence of God in our life. Hear the words of the Good News in poetry, song, prayer and proclamation as we prepare the way of our Lord.

- Allen

Advent 1 Dec. 3

Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37



Evergreen

Voracious as hounds
Snowflakes thickening
We run the traces

Tracking trees
Searching for evergreen

When we reach the top
Breath cutting like knives
We fell the perfect one

Hatchet hacking the silence
Making quick, raspy sounds
Not unlike gasps

Spent, saltiness on our tongues
We sink weightless
Into the white

Melting like flames
Consumed by love

Advent 2 Dec. 10

Isaiah 40:1-10; Mark 1:1-18



Magi

Sparked by a star
Armed with prophesy
And astronomical knowledge

Wise men on camels
Bearing gifts of gold
Frankincense and myrrh

Travelled cold terrain
Certain of their journey

At darkness or dawn
Purple-ribboned horizons
Foretold the royalty they sought

Undeterred by stranger
Omens or danger
They pressed onward

Spurred by faith
And the promise of a miracle
In a manger

Advent Poems 2017

By Nancy Dillingham



Advent 3 Dec. 17

Micah 5:1-4; Luke 1:47-55



Starshine

Brighter than any light
That might have emanated
From a fire

In the center
Of their sleeping stones
The star shone

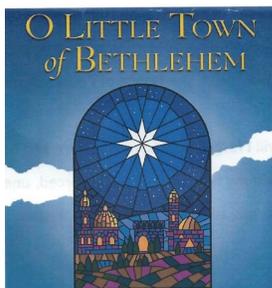
Streaming high above them
Pulsating
Awakening them

Those dozing
May have thought
They were dreaming the voice

As it intoned a command
Same as the one
They might have given their flock

Enticing them to the fold
Guiding them
Inviting them to arise and go

And follow starshine
To a destiny
On the plain



KPC Choir Cantata
December 17 @ 11 am

Advent 4 Dec. 24

Luke 1:24-38



Mary's Lament

An ominous heaviness
Hangs over me
I stifle the urge to flee

Not easily
I suffer the weight
Of my husband's glances

Real or imagined
I wonder about his chances
Of leaving me

The distance
Between us
Seems a wide and silent sea

I plea
For a more measured
Degree of faith

Still as I wait
A seed grows
Within me

I breathe a Savior

Christmas Day, Dec. 25

Luke 2:1-20



Babe in Bethlehem

In the silence of a stable
A baby lies in a manger
Haloed in swaddling clothes

The air acrid
Raw with the smell
Of animal and straw

Mary the mother hovers
Joseph her husband
Steady and strong

The whole tableau
Fraught with awe:
A Savior come calling