

4th Sunday of Advent 2018

ONE INCREDIBLE MOMENT



Advent helps us to look back to the first coming of Jesus Christ, Lord and Saviour, but also helps us to look forward to the time when He will come again. The Kingdom of God (Heaven) came, that first time, as a reign on earth, but will come ultimately when Christ returns and the whole world will be His realm. Jesus has already shown us how to live in His Kingdom and promises to help us live this life of blessing.

That first Christmas night made an ordinary night into the extraordinary. In ONE INCREDIBLE MOMENT, God was born on earth, born in a stable away from the busyness of a Bethlehem, full of people gathering for the census, a great company of the heavenly host appeared praising God. Why did the angels have such excitement and celebration? We only need to look at the names that belong to Jesus to understand why.

Jesus (who forgives us our wrong doing, enables us to return to the Father, in love, grace),

Christ (the anointed King, fulfilling every promise God has made in His Word)

Immanuel (God with us! Understands our difficulties, our tragedies, our hurts)

Prince of Peace (who quietens your heart)

Counsellor (who listens and guides)

There are so many facets to Jesus,... Shepherd, Teacher, Light of the World, Friend?

Back to today, and December is rushing by in a frenzy of Christmas preparations... things to do, things to buy, places to be! A world full of lights and sparkle, fun and food. But, for some, it's a confused private world... of loneliness, illness and loss, trying to keep up... a sadness deep within.

So for those who are hurting, the birth of Jesus can provide a comfort, and for those who are more fortunate, living in his light can help others in the Kingdom.



The Bible tells us that 'God rewards those who earnestly seek him.' (Hebrews 11:6), and at his earthly birth there are those who did. Simeon said, "Can I stay alive until I see Him?", the shepherds with curiosity said "Let's go, let's see." and the Magi pronounced, "We're off to find Him, and we won't stop until we do!".

This Advent, this Christmas, let us not just be content with the glitter of the season, but seek Him as the shepherds did, long for Him as Simeon did, worship Him as the wise men did, and say 'Yes' to God and His plan for you. The reward is living in harmony with our Heavenly Father, through the Holy Spirit, by Jesus Christ who came to earth.....and will come again.