

This week we come to the close of the Advent season. Today we celebrate the 4th Sunday in Advent, light the 4th candle - the Love candle, once again sing wonderful Advent hymns and songs, and conclude our sermon series called "Rising from the Ashes." With today's message, we will move into the New Testament and focus on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Jesus was born to relatively poor parents and worked as a carpenter in his early life. But once He began His public ministry, things really started to take off. He gained a massive following and many expected him to start a revolution to kick out the Romans and restore Israel to its former glory. Then, suddenly, He was betrayed by one of His disciples, arrested by the religious leaders, and killed. From a human point of view, Jesus had an incredibly successful ministry and His death was a tragic dumpster fire. But we are told that from the ashes of His death, God brought forgiveness, life, and restoration to the world. Throughout worship today, you are invited to see how Jesus was born to die so that we might live.

### Sermon Notes ~ "Rising from Death"

- \* *What are some of your favorite Christmas memories?*
- \* *What are your thoughts about the lyrics from the song "Mary's Prayer?"*
- \* *From an earthly point of view, what was tragic about Jesus' death?*
- \* *What did God raise up from the ashes of Jesus' death on the cross?*
- \* *How will the phrase "Jesus was born to die" shape how you celebrate Christmas this year?*

\* **In Our Prayers** ... Sam McGrath, Dorothy Barkley Clara Krejci, Bartley Kohel, Renee Holz, Jon Friel, Joanne Dahlin, Lisa Larsen, Ruth Hagemeyer, Laura DePetro, Lorraine Schire, Kevin Portuguese, Mary Schultz, Peter Nyout, Oline Tolbert, Doug Lasker, Dolores Weir, Carol Mrozik, Betsy Dehler, Marion Hastings, Gene Pommerening

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## The week of December 20 at St. John!

- \* **Children's Christmas Service** ... Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 am titled "When the Time Had Fully Come". You are invited to enjoy a short piano recital by the kids a few minutes prior to the Children's service at 10:30 am.
- \* **Advent Service Projects** ... In place of in-person service projects on Wednesdays during Advent, this year you are invited to do these projects from your home. For the third week in Advent (December 13 thru 19) we will focus on SoWashCo CARES, an organization that serves students and families in need in South Washington County. Each week an email is sent out with details on the organization and at-home service project.
- \* **Visits** ... If you would like a 1-on-1 visit from Pastor Dave, whether in-person or virtually, he would love to set that up with you. Please contact the office to schedule a visit.
- \* **Christmas Eve Services ~ Thursday, December 24** ... Times are 2:00 pm ~ 3:30 pm ~ 5:00 pm and on 98.9 FM ... If you would be interested in "ushering" at one or more of these services, please contact Kristie.
- \* **Christmas Day Worship** ... Friday, December 25 at 9:00 am
- \* **Year-End Giving** ... As the year comes to a close, you are invited to consider St. John when it comes to your year-end giving. As always, you can give in-person, online ([stjohnwoodbury.org/give](http://stjohnwoodbury.org/give)), or through the mail (1975 St. Johns Drive, Woodbury, MN 55129). If you are interested in the possibility of donating to St. John in other ways (stocks, real estate, etc.), please contact the office (651.436.6621). Thank you SO much for your generosity and faithfulness to St. John!
- \* **Wednesday Evening (7:00 pm) Bible Studies** ... on Wednesdays this Epiphany, January 6 thru February 10, we will be offering a Bible study on the topic of Apologetics - defending the Christian faith. It will be based upon the book called "The Reason for God." You will be able to attend in-person in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom with this link - <https://bit.ly/EpiphanyMidWeekStudy>. The studies will also be recorded and made available on our website.
- \* **Altar Flowers** ... The flowers beautifying the sanctuary this Advent season are given by the Don Lindeman family in honor / memory of Cheryl's son, Todd Tuley, who celebrated his heavenly birthday on December 3.
- \* **Weekly Social Media Post** ... From a human point of view, Jesus' death on the cross was a tragic dumpster fire. But from those ashes, God has raised up salvation for us. So as we celebrate Christmas 2020, we remember that Jesus was born to die so that we can live.  
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