



November 7, 2020

Dear Friends,

As the song goes, “We need a little Christmas,” and this year we are all praying a collective “Come quickly, Christmas, for we need you now more than ever!” This year's Advent theme is “Come, Christmas . . .” and throughout the season we will focus on the gifts which Christ's coming brings to the world:

The First Sunday of Advent: Come, Hope . . .  
The Hanging of the Greens

The Second Sunday of Advent: Come, Love . . .  
An audio recording of a previous presentation of the Christmas portion of  
Handel's *Messiah* will be posted on our website for you to enjoy

The Third Sunday of Advent: Come, Joy . . .

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Come, Peace . . .  
A Service of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve: Come, Christ . . .  
Communion and welcoming Christ

We are all anticipating the time when we once again will be able to gather together for worship. The Diaconate has discussed this matter continuously since March. We have consulted guidelines from health professionals and civic leaders. We have also relied upon the information, insight and guidance of physicians within our congregation. With the continuing rise in infection rate, hospitalizations, and deaths in our community, there is unanimous agreement that it is not wise to gather in moderate or large groups inside or outside at this time. The health and safety of our congregation and community are of primary importance, so we will not gather for worship until it is safe to do so.

Advent will look different this year for our Lakeside family of faith, but we will find meaningful ways to celebrate Advent and Christmas together even while we are apart. Our much-loved Hanging of the Greens service will take place virtually. The week before Sunday, November 29, which is the first Sunday of Advent, Lakeside members and families will be able to place a poinsettia on the altar in memory of a loved one. Our children and their families will be making Chrismons during these next few weeks, which they will add to Lakeside's Chrismon tree as well. Each family is asked to take a picture as they place a poinsettia or hang a Chrismon so we will be able to share with one another a virtual Hanging of the Greens service.

We are also asking members to write a devotion that can be shared with our family of faith during Advent. Over the past eight months we have had time to reflect on what we miss most and what truly matters most. We have sheltered in place and had more time to appreciate the views from where we find ourselves. We are asking you to write a little something about your view and what you have learned about yourself, others or God's creation while paying more attention to your daily surroundings. This Christmas season we are asking that you share in an Advent devotion a view from your window which has become meaningful, comforting, enlightening or inspiring. Share your thoughts and reflections, as well as a photo or sketch of the view from your window.

We hope to offer other unique and creative opportunities for worship during this beautiful season, culminating with a parking lot Christmas Eve Candles and Communion service. We may celebrate Christmas differently this year, but Christ still comes to each and to all of us.

Come quickly, Christmas . . . Come!

*Jody*