

Daily Devotion For November 29, 2021

"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world." John 1:9

Have you noticed that there are certain signals that reveal Christmas is on its way. Starbucks is serving coffee in holiday cups and adding peppermint mochas to their seasonal menu. Radio stations are playing 24 hour Christmas music. We have just had Black Friday and tomorrow is Cyber Monday where there are additional bargains for Christmas shoppers.

Yesterday Tom and Lynn Gunter lit the first Advent Candle. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." It's a season of preparation, not for extra expenses or family gatherings, but to remember the Christ child who came to live among us to secure our redemption. This is the time of the year to pause and cherish God's most precious gift to us.

Advent is also the anticipation of Christ's return at the Second Coming. When we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we're honoring the sacrifice He made for us too. Gathering around the manger is only part of it. We also need to journey to the foot of the cross.

So while you might get swept up in all the hurried activity of the Christmas season, be intentional this year to take time during Advent to prepare your heart. Remember that God laid aside His glory to become human because of His great love for you, and He will also return one day to restore glory to His people.

Thought For Today: What kinds of things mark the start of the Christmas season for you? Is celebrating Advent part of your traditions? If not, how can you make it a special part this year?

Today's Prayer Focus: Pray that your heart and the heart of the El Estero congregation would be spiritually prepared during this season of Advent. Be sure to download this week's updated prayer fuel and add it to your daily devotion time. Deo Volente.