

Every Beginning

Every Beginning comes with choice.

What do we bring,
what do we leave,
where are we traveling?

In Advent we slow down, we journey toward Jesus, we wait for the Lord.

But this is not how we often prepare for Christmas.

Busyness, hustle, bustle, craziness.

These are the gifts we often bring to lay at the feet of the Baby Jesus who can just barely be seen behind the mount of presents on Christmas morning.

But in Advent we choose different things for the journey.

We bring Hope. We take the time to see the pain of the world instead of rushing through it. We look to the Baby Jesus, a pure sign of a new start. A new hope for the whole world.

We bring Joy. We take time to remember that we are not alone, but that God dwells with us. We welcome Jesus into our life and with glad expectation remember He is making all things new.

We bring Love. We follow Christ's footsteps, serving one another, caring for those who are not like us. And on the path of love we look forward to Christ's coming again.

But the way is dark.

The path is not easy.

We need to prepare.

This Advent season we challenge you to rest. To wait for the Lord. We challenge you to slow down; to find stillness each week and to celebrate the season of Advent. To pause your hustle and your bustle so that you can be still and know that Jesus is God.

Along the journey toward the coming of Jesus, we will light candles which both symbolize our preparation for the coming of Christ and Christ's light coming more fully into the world.

Every beginning comes with choices.

This year we invite you to choose to prepare:

To be still.

To find hope.

To learn joy.

To walk love.

To leave the baggage of hustle and bustle behind.

So that when we celebrate the coming of Jesus, we will have made room for the Light of Christ to shine in and through our lives.

A poem for the first week of Advent 2016
by Kiran and Tim Kuhn for Eastbrook Church

