



A Note from Johnny...

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. What is Advent? That is a good question. There are many definitions, but I found the best Advent explanation at Christianity.com.

“Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these “last days” (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2), as God’s people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God’s past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ’s coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” perfectly represents the church’s cry during the Advent season:

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ’s first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the Second Coming in the future.”

Over the next four Sundays we will celebrate Advent during the worship time. I would like to encourage you to be here for each service. I promise you, Christmas will have more of an impact on your life.

During our worship time today, we will honor Dr. Stan Sanford for his time of ministry here at FBC. I don’t know of a family who has the passion and compassion for those that are hurting like Stan and Robbie Sanford.

We want to say thank you to Stan and his family for their service to the Lord, and for leading our Community Missions.

Let’s worship the Lord and abide in His love for us.

Bro. Johnny