

Pastor D's Letter December 12th, 2021

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.” Luke 2:4-5

Advent is a journey, a journey to Christmas. In our church we mark this journey by remembering Mary, Joseph and the Donkey traveling to Bethlehem. Each week Mary, Joseph and the Donkey move around the front of the Sanctuary getting ever closer to the Creche (the manger). It's fun to watch them and remember the long journey that they took to get to Bethlehem.

You and I may not think of it being a long and dangerous journey, but it was. Today it takes less than 2 hours to make the trip but the 158 miles on foot would take around 53 hours walking at 3 miles per hour. That means the journey would take a week.

Now think about doing that while you are 9 months pregnant! Could you walk 3 miles an hour 10 hours a day while 9 months pregnant?

Today we are used to instant everything. We have instant oatmeal, instant news, instant gratification. You want to know something about anything in the world, check your phone, it's on google. Gone are the days when we had to wait weeks for a letter to arrive to tell us the latest news or how a loved one was doing.

Advent is intended to slow us down. To make us journey slowly and take a walk with Mary and Joseph (and the donkey). As we slowly journey to Christmas, we have time to think, time to reflect, and time to let the reality of GOD WITH US in Jesus, impact us. Hopefully, the reality that GOD IS WITH US changes who we are and who we want to be.

This Advent, take a walk, go for a drive and look at lights, enjoy the journey to Christmas. But also take time to think about and celebrate that GOD IS WITH US, in Jesus!

And now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13)

Dr. D

NEWS UPDATES

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- Join us for **Fellowship after church** in the Fellowship Hall.
- **WWN Bible Study this Wednesday. Join us as we journey through Luke.**
- **MASKS ARE OPTIONAL** IN WORSHIP! Be considerate of those who choose to wear masks and maintain social distance.
- If you cannot come in person, we continue to broadcast our **SERVICE LIVE** every Sunday at 9 a.m. on <https://www.facebook.com/SierraVistaPresbyterianChurch/>. Our account is public. **YOU DO NOT NEED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO WATCH.** If you come to worship in person or watch at home, **invite a friend to join you.**
- If you watch on Facebook, **Worship sheets** are available on our website at <https://www.sierravistayuma.com/> under the NEWS Tab.
- If you wish to receive the monthly **newsletter** or know someone who wants to receive **Pastor D's Letter**, contact the church office with your email information.
- **THANK YOU for your continued financial support** of the church by giving in person, mailing a check, or giving ONLINE.