

Sermon Notes/Reflection:

Advent Schedule



Cantata

Sunday, December 14th, 7pm,
Wabash Christian Church



Family Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21st, 10am, WPC



Christmas Joy Offering

Sunday, December 21st during service



Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 21st, after service



Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24th, 11pm, WPC



Wabash Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours | Mondays-Fridays, 8:30am-12:30pm

Singing Through Advent



*Because some news is so good,
it has to be sung!*

Advent 2014 Devotional
Week Three

Written by Jonathan Cornell

The Power in Waiting

There is power in waiting. There was a man named Heath who describes the power to be had in waiting. Every year, he would go and visit a relative, and one year he visited his aunt who lived on an apple orchard. On his visit he noticed that the apple trees had an unusually abundant crop. Limbs were bent over under the weight of such weighty produce.

Heath asked his aunt why the orchard had such a bountiful crop this year. She told him that there was a late frost in the spring of the year before. When that happens, apple trees do something remarkable, they go into hibernation. It stores up all of its energy into thousands of small nodules, and life literally pulsates through these little nodules until the following season when BAM! Life literally explodes from the apple tree, as all of that energy that was stored up is unleashed in an abundance of apples.

There is great power in waiting. Simeon came to understand this. One has to imagine that there were times when his waiting to see Israel's consolation got pretty lonely and discouraging. This is what happens with the harsh frosts of our lives, disappointment, disease, and heartache can cause our hearts to freeze.

But at the heart of the Christian faith is this promise we live with. Namely, that in and through Jesus Christ there will be an abundant harvest. God's power will pulsate with us and among us. In Christ, we can form little nodules of living hope, so that during seasons of difficulty they will sustain us. With that hope, one day those nodules will be released in a bumper crop of God's grace and mercy and ultimately God's salvation.

Monday

...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

Patience is not always easy to come by, especially when we want results now. What are the areas of your life where you've experienced a harsh frost? Ask God to help you to endure the winters of life, and protect that life that is teeming inside you.

Tuesday

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption. (Gal. 4:4-5)

In what ways is your life dictated by the clock? Does it feel in some way stifling or anxiety inducing? Invite God to renew His presence in your daily routines, and for God to sanctify (make holy for God's purpose) your time.

Wednesday

This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too. (Luke 2:34-35)

Making changes in our own lives is tricky business, and becoming an accessory to radical life altering change in others, now that's downright terrifying. How are we moving closer to or possibly away from God in our lives?

Thursday

Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation. (Luke 2:29-31)

How has your life been challenged by times of prolonged waiting? Reflect today upon what that experience did to your interior life. Have you experienced consolation for your waiting? Take time today to either mourn or celebrate the answer to prayer.

Friday

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. (Luke 2:39)

That's it? That's how it all ends? Having finished the rituals of the Lord, having had an amazing experience with it all, they just go back home? Yes, that's how the story goes. Shepherds, Magi, they all go back to life as usual. But is it really life as usual? Read Revelation 12 for a description of this event from Heaven's vantage point.

Reflection Notes:
