

SERMON NOTES

December 17, 2023

Can't Wait: Family Christmas

Life Steps

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Monday

Isaiah 41:10

Reflect: It is easy to become “dismayed” when what you are waiting for is slow to come. What word or phrase from this passage most encourages you? Why?

Prayer: Immanuel, your presence makes all of the difference. I will wait for you.

Tuesday

Romans 15:13

Reflect: 1st Advent candle – Hope. Today, Tuesday, December 19th, what are you most hoping for?

How does your trust in God impact the way you hope?

Prayer: Immanuel, God of overflowing hope, I wait on you because I trust you.

Wednesday

Ephesians 3:16-19

Reflect: 2nd Advent Candle – Love. On a love meter scale of 1-10, how well are you rooted and established in love? What steps will you take today to be more loving towards someone hard to love? Who do you know that needs an experience of God’s love?

Prayer: Immanuel, loving God, show me how and help me to love _____ in a way that they might experience you.

Thursday

Isaiah 9:6

Reflect: 3rd Advent Candle – Peace. Where in your life is peace most absent? If you try and try, and that situation never changes, how might you learn to be at peace?

Prayer: Immanuel, wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, and prince of peace, use me to bring peace where there is no peace.

Friday

Isaiah 55:12-13

Reflect: 4th Advent Candle – Joy. What is your favorite Christmas Carol? Write down as many verses you can recall from memory, then sing and or hum out loud often today. Before praying, go to this link: pathway.church/joy

Prayer: Immanuel, God with us, we sing with Joy because of your great love revealed for us through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Saturday

3 John 1:2-4

Reflect: Joy is celebrating that the people you know and care for deeply are walking in the truth of God’s love. Decide how you are going to connect today with the person you have invited to Christmas Eve Worship.

Prayer: Immanuel, even now, prepare the heart of _____ to be open to an experience of the truth of your love.

Christmas Eve

Luke 1:26-38

Reflect: How do you think Mary went from being “greatly troubled” to saying so be it, “I am the Lord’s servant?” What is your personal application of this insight?

Prayer: Immanuel, make yourself known to who all who attend our Christmas Eve services, connecting one more after one more to an experience of your great love.