

Bible Verse: Matthew 1:21 (NIV) “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

During this season of Advent, we prepare for Christmas. Advent is all about preparation. We see this in church in lots of ways.

We change the altar color to blue. We decorate the church with greens. The greens remind us of life. Jesus will bring new life to the whole world. When we make the greens into a circle, we have a wreath. The circle reminds us of God’s never-ending love. When we add Advent candles to our circle, we have an Advent Wreath. We light the candles each week, as we pray for Hope and Faith and Peace and Joy and Love.

We have a Giving Tree in the narthex and a decorated tree in the Gazebo.

We have a manger scene on display, waiting for the baby Jesus.

Today’s Advent story is about GOD preparing for Christmas. God is preparing a family for His son Jesus to grow up in. God chose a young woman named Mary to be Jesus’ mother and Mary’s soon-to-be husband Joseph to take care of Mary and help raise her son. Mary and Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth. Joseph was a carpenter. Although he lived in Nazareth, Joseph was a descendent of David of Bethlehem.

God sent the angel Gabriel to announce to Mary that she would become the mother of the Son of God. When Mary understood the angel’s message, she sang a special song to God. Mary sang: “From now on all Generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me- holy is his name”.

God also sent an angel to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph that Mary’s baby would be God’s Son on Earth. The angel told Joseph to name him “Jesus”, which means “the Lord

saves.” Joseph obeyed God’s angel and determined to protect Mary and Jesus.

Now the world does not have long to wait! Jesus is about to be born to Mary, the wife of Joseph the carpenter of Nazareth.

Wonder Question: How afraid would you be if you saw an angel?

