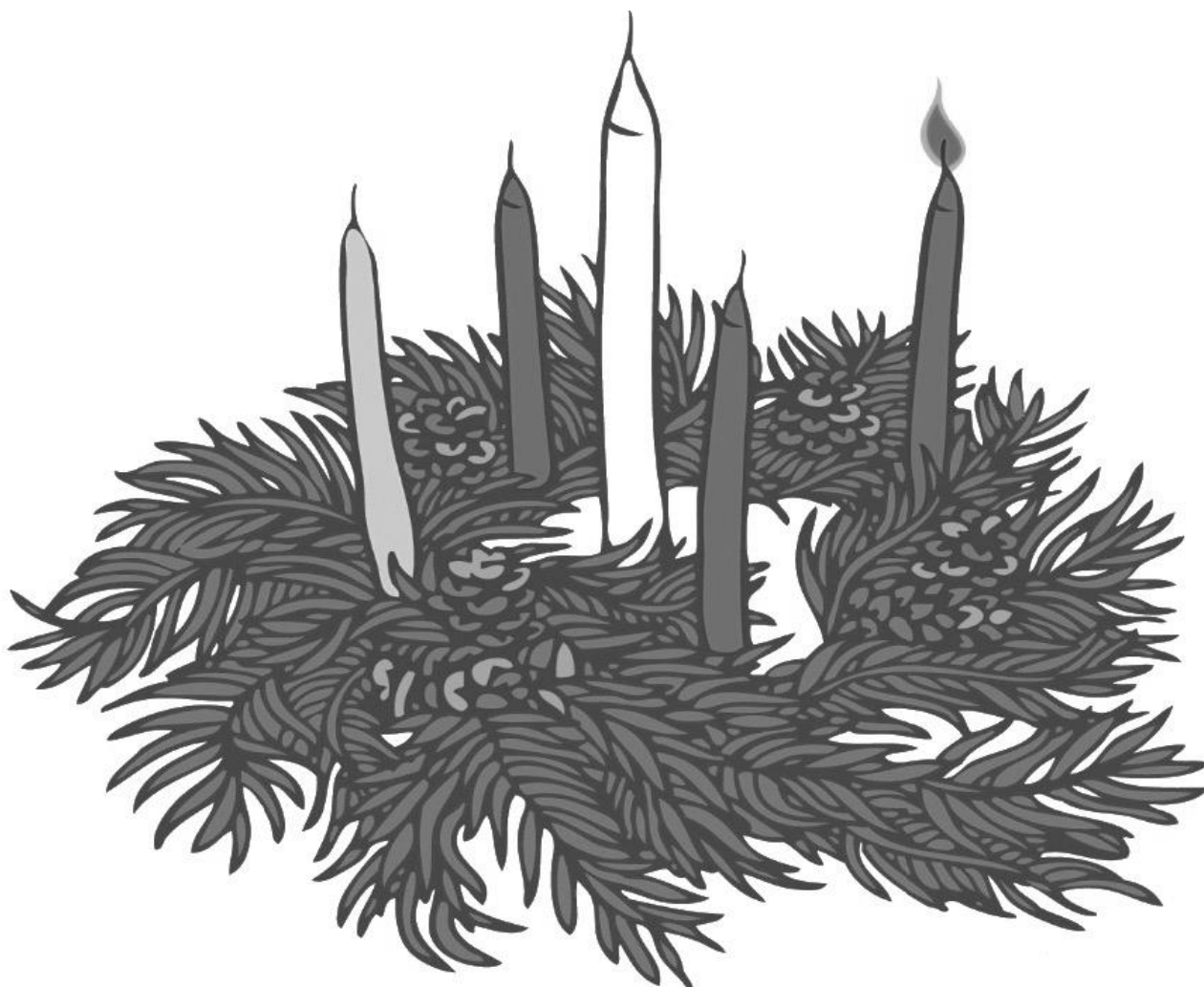


 **St. Hilda's Church**

Advent

Devotional Booklet 2018

Week 3



Advent Devotion Week 3

“Wonder at God”

Luke 2:8-20; Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Of all the people that God could have sent his angel to announce the birth of Jesus, He chose a group of humble, lowly shepherds. The message was welcoming, the announcement of the birth of the Messiah, and a declaration, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men.” It’s a message that should mean as much to us today as it did to the shepherds. The Prince of Peace had come to reconcile man with God.

I love how the shepherds responded. The Bible tells us that after their encounter with the angel and the heavenly host, they hurried off to find baby Jesus. And when they did, again they did not hesitate to spread the word about all that they had witnessed, praising and glorifying God as they did so. And those who received their message were amazed!

Have you ever found yourself over-thinking how you were going to share Christ to someone? I have. I have spent an inordinate amount of time thinking about how to “package” God so that I could get the best possible response from the person I had hoped to share with. And all while trying to muster the courage to do so, worried about having the right answer to every possible question.

At times like these, I remind myself of who He is – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father. The wonder and greatness of our God is sufficient. He does not need my help to “sell” Him, but only to share. And we have the promise that the Holy Spirit is there helping us to communicate and work in the hearts of those with whom we are sharing (Luke 12:12).

The shepherds were filled with such joy and gladness, so much so that they immediately told everyone about the arrival of baby Jesus. May it be our prayer that we who live in the knowledge of Christ's death and resurrection, should also be filled with the same fervor to share Christ's message of salvation.

Reflection:

- a) If you were to make a list of truths about God, His majesty, holiness, love, faithfulness, and so on, how long would your list be?
- b) Who in your life needs to hear these truths about our Lord Jesus today?

Pray

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for coming into our world to bring peace and reconciliation between man and God. Like the shepherds, fill our hearts with wonder and amazement. And like them, give us the zeal to bring your message to all who need to hear it today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Desmond Koh

Carol

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Chorus:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

(Chorus)

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth.

(Chorus)

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

(Chorus)