

peace be with you

# weekly devotional

from the desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler

SAINT PAUL BENSON

Advent, Week II

*“Prepare ye the Way of the Lord.  
Prepare ye the Way of the Lord!”*

How do I express what I feel in my heart  
upon hearing the choir singing and the pastor  
preaching with enthusiasm and joy!

*“Praise my Soul the King of Heaven, to His feet  
your tribute brings, ransomed, healed, restored,  
forgiven ever more God’s praises ring!”*

When this worshipping congregation sings this tune  
How do I explain why tears roll down my cheeks?

In my heart I hear the reflection of Mary’s  
Song and feel it deep within,

*“My Soul proclaims  
the greatness of the Lord, my Spirit  
rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked  
with favor on this lowly servant.”*

Do you feel it, too? When the Advent scriptures  
burrow into the spaciousness of your heart  
and the peace of God rings true and pleasing,  
divine love swelling until with the  
angels we sing praises and await the Child.

We prepare to meet the infinite, incarnate child of God.  
*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, come be with us!  
Abide with us.*

**December 8, 2021**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

Common English Bible

Be glad in the Lord always! Again, I say,  
be glad! Let your gentleness show in  
your treatment of all people. The Lord is  
near. Don’t be anxious about anything;  
rather, bring up all of your requests to  
God in your prayers and petitions, along  
with giving thanks. Then the peace of  
God that exceeds all understanding will  
keep your hearts and minds safe in  
Christ Jesus.

## Advent Fair

The church that is doing our best to  
navigate safely through a pandemic was  
especially cheerful and bright last  
Saturday afternoon at the return of the  
Advent Fair. Parents and grandparents  
chased children down beautifully  
decorated hallways, all the while balancing  
ooey, gooey sculpted popcorn on their one  
free hand.

*Continued*

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## Advent Fair

Lined up at Pearl's Christmas Café, homemade turkey soup and egg salad became gourmet entrées with the love Pearl added!

Carefully prepared craft tables revealed pretty things that most any adult or child was able to make into a gift for loved ones with the assistance of those staffing the tables.

Pastors Stephanie, Jerry, and Andrew were seen mingling with visitors. Their warm smiles portray God's love so that each one feels at home at Saint Paul Benson.

Many paused at the sight of homemade cookies, eyes wide at the view of sweets, and donations were made to the youth group.

Hayley, the elf, and Santa Claus brought joy by their very presence!

As the commotion gave way to Christmas caroling, hearts softened with the familiar tunes and lyrics. The birth of Christ merits the most joyful harmonies we can muster!

We are grateful for another year celebrating the traditions of the Advent Season and for Deb and Dee and so many others who plan and made it happen once again.

In the darkest nights, let's pray to God and release anxiety by giving thanks for the divine presence in our lives. May we keep our eyes and hearts open to signs of God's coming, all the while living in the Spirit of Christ Jesus.

*May the peace of Advent come to you in unexpected ways.*



Rev. Marta Wheeler