

December 17, 2021

Dear Friends,

One of this week's Advent readings was from Luke chapter 12 (verses 35-40). The title was *Watchfulness*. Jesus tells a story about servants waiting for their master's return. In the story, when the master arrives, guess what he does? He does the opposite to what we might expect. Jesus emphasizes the importance of his point: *"Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and come and wait on them."*

This blew me away. Jesus is talking about himself, the Christ, in relation to people like us. He is talking about what to expect of the Incarnate Christ who came to us as Jesus of Nazareth, comes to us through the Holy Spirit, and will return to set all things right at the end of time as we know it. Our Lord Jesus Christ "will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and come and wait on them." This was ultimately demonstrated at the cross: his life given for our total well-being, our eternal salvation.

Consider the Christ you wait for. Jesus says, "It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready..." (verse 18a). Everything about him is good for us.

**Sundays Worship Gatherings: In-Person Registration (9 a.m. or 11 a.m.) or Livestream Link (11 a.m.)**

This fourth Sunday of Advent, we will hear testimonies as we light the candle of love. The sermon, given by Pastor Rick Hiemstra, is titled "Nothing Will Be Impossible with God." This was Mary's conviction and hope; hear her story and her song in Luke 1:26-56 and be inspired by her example to bless God and others through living faith.

Please [contact the church office](#) for registration details, and complete building entrance screening [here](#) before your arrival. Here are our [current guidelines](#) for gathering in-person. *In order to be mindful of our maximum capacity of 75 people in the sanctuary, registration is mandatory.*

You may also [Join the 11 a.m. Livestreamed service online here](#). When you click on the link above this will launch the SWC Livestream homepage. From there you may need to click the "Videos" tab to access this Sunday's Livestream.

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#).

**Christmas Eve Services**

Please [contact the church office](#) for registration details for our Christmas Eve services at 4 p.m. or 6 p.m. on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Advent Prayer**

The prayer team will reconvene in the new year. Meanwhile we pray as individuals, in our small groups, as we gather on Sundays and in our Advent worship and prayer gathering in the church sanctuary on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. To register, you may [contact the church office](#). You may wish to use an [Advent devotional](#) to guide your daily readings and prayers this season.

**Passing the Baton**

My dear friends, one more word before I go. This will be my last full letter to you before my final day in the senior pastor role on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Next Friday, the letter will be curated by my colleague Beth Fleming, and it may include a paragraph from me about what you can expect in the weeks to come. I will be part of the team facilitating our Christmas Eve services and our gathering on the first Sunday of Christmas (December 26). And I will continue to actively live and serve in our church community going forward.

It is my pleasure and privilege to have been your senior pastor these three and a half years. I love you very much and have great expectations of God and what God is doing within us and through us. Please keep in touch as we continue to live the Christ-following life alongside each other. After December 28<sup>th</sup>, you may reach me at my personal email address.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.

With love and prayers,  
Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)