

The logo for 'twiyw' is displayed in a stylized, lowercase blue font within a white rounded rectangular border. The background of the entire page is a dark blue, low-poly illustration of a church interior with pews and a cross.

Taking Worship Into Your Week

11.29.20

“Good grief!” That was the phrase Charlie Brown used every time he was stressed and frazzled. Sometimes, the way we prepare for Christmas causes us to become frazzled with the result that we might exclaim, “Christmas? Good grief!” So, each Sunday of Advent, we’ll use the beloved cartoon “A Charlie Brown Christmas” as we bring God’s Word to bear on how we can change our preparations into a time of hope and joy.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we’ll admit that our Christmas celebration becomes hectic because of all that needs to get done - the shopping, decorating, baking, wrapping - and how we need to get less busy, so that we can hear our Lord Jesus inviting us to “be still, and know that I am God.

1. Name one thing - or two or three - that you normally do to prepare for Christmas, that, when you think of it, you sigh and are not looking forward to it. Why is that your reaction to that thought?
2. Read Luke 1:26-31. Would you call this scene “serene” or “stressful?” Then read 1:32-33. What does God create, in Mary’s case, despite the stress? Where in your life are you stressed, right now, and how might you pray that God creates something wonderful with it?
3. Using a concordance, look up how many times angels are depicted in the Bible saying, “fear not,” or “don’t be afraid.” What are those occasions? How are they related? Why does the angel have to say, “fear not?”
4. Luke 1:39-45 is a “canticle.” A canticle is any song in the Bible which is not a Psalm. Search for Miriam’s song and the song of Moses and note the similarities. If you were to write a song right now, extolling God’s greatness, what would you be sure to sing?
5. Think of one way you can be “busy” this Advent season in a way that has eternal significance. . . not shopping, wrapping, baking, or decorating. . . but something that would share the good news of Jesus, and/or bring his peace into a situation. Decide you will do it. Decide when. Then. . . do it.