

## Christmas Preparations

*“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.”  
Isaiah 40:3*

Dear Friends,

This Sunday, December 3, we enter the season of Advent and on the church calendar, we begin a new year! Advent is a time to “prepare” for the Lord, so I encourage you to think about how you will spend the next four weeks in preparation for the coming of the Christ child.

What disciplines will you practice?

What seasonal events will you attend?

What gifts will you buy?

Who will be the recipients of those gifts?

Where will you be on the four Sunday mornings of Advent?

What are your dreams, this year, as we light the Advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love?

Who is missing in your Christmas festivities this year?

What blessings have you received this year that bring you joy?

What is your favorite Christmas carol?

Will you be able to celebrate Christmas with those you love?

Where do you find peace?

I have always thought that to “prepare,” I had to be DOING something but in my old age I am learning the art of BEING. My prayer is that you will find time during this busy season of Advent preparations to be still and reflect on how you can make straight in our crazy, busy “wilderness” of 2023, a highway for our God. May you experience the hope, peace, joy and love of this Advent season.

Blessings,

Mike