

NEWSLETTER

The Crucifer

For Someone's Christmas Problem

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given...and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

The readings and messages of Advent and Christmas rest heavily upon the Old Testament, and this causes, well... some issues. Many have a difficult time accepting Christianity's claim about the Old Testament. Specifically, our claim that when the prophets or even Moses said what they said, unbeknownst to them, they were actually speaking about Jesus, hundreds of years later. CS Lewis termed it as "the second meaning" of scripture. The first meaning was what they thought they were saying. The second was what God had intended to show the world by what they were saying, often, years later.

I think we can understand the struggle here. We all know someone's words can be twisted to mean about anything. Doesn't it indeed seem like Christians, and perhaps even Jesus, just twisted the words of the Old Testament to fit their purposes?

Well, if you are open to seeing it, CS Lewis helps us to sort this out by giving two different situations to consider. The first situation is like the fire that was recorded by Roman historians. Records show that there was once a fire in a provincial town that was believed to have originated in the public baths. What made them suspect arson was the fact that, earlier that very day, a gentleman had complained that the baths were not hot enough. To which the attendant had replied, "it will soon be hot enough." Now, it was entirely probable that the attendant had spoken words that simply ended up being far truer than he had intended – mere coincidence. And to read a second meaning into his words in such a situation, especially at our current historical distance, would be going way out on a limb, to put it very mildly, and just being foolish to put it bluntly.

If reading second meanings of Old Testament verses were like this, to do so would undoubtedly be foolish. But there is another sort to consider.

Lewis lists multiple examples, but consider Plato and his *Republic*. Plato, over 400 years before Jesus Christ, argues that "righteousness is often praised for the rewards it brings – honor, popularity, and the like – but that to see [righteousness] in its

true nature we must separate it from all these, strip it naked. Plato asks us, therefore, to imagine a perfectly righteous man [being] treated by all around him as a monster of wickedness. We must picture him, still perfect, while he is bound, scourged, and finally impaled (the Persian equivalent of crucifixion). At this passage the Christian reader begins to rub [their] eyes. What is happening?" Mere coincidence? "Plato is talking, and he knows he is talking about the fate of goodness in a wicked and misunderstanding world. But that is [nothing] other than the Passion of Christ. It is the very same thing of which the Passion is the supreme illustration." If Plato was taken and shown the crucifixion of Christ he would say, "Yes! That is what I was trying to say!"

Plato's words had a deeper meaning than even he knew. He did not know that God was going to do what he did, but it was not by mere chance that his words were truer than he meant them to be. They were truer because he knew that "goodness is what it is and because the fallen world is what it is."

For us to read a deeper meaning into Plato's writing is not the same as us reading a deeper meaning into the chance situation of the fire in the bath house. The situation with the Old Testament and Christianity's reading second meanings into their words, is like this but even more so. They were literally speaking about the same God. I am completely and utterly convinced that, in most instances, if the Old Testament writers saw the truer meaning of their words they too would say, "Yes! Of course! That is what I was trying to say! That is God!"

When you hear the Christmas and Advent stories this year, don't let these *second meanings* distract you from what it is proclaiming to you. It is, in part, trying to show us that the God who always *was* is the God who always *is*, and it is right and good and even foreseeable that such a God was revealed to perfection in a little baby born in a dirty shed.

At one point, this teaching of Lewis helped me. I hope it may help someone else too. RPD+

*** CS Lewis, Reflections on the Psalms, chapter 10, pp115-123

Worship

8:00am – In Person Worship & Live Stream 10:30am – In Person Worship & Live Stream 5:00pm - Worship (Contemporary)

Wednesday Nights 5:30pm - Church Dinner

5:30pm - Church Dinne 5:30pm - Youth Group

5:30pm - Children's Ministry - Pray & Play

5:30pm - Nursery

5:45pm - Advent In Theater



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DONATE			1 Advent in the Theater	2	8	4 BLUE CHRISTMAS
Sunday, December 5, 2021 8:30 Am - 12:30 PM Holy Cross Episcopal Church		6:30pm - Compassionate Friends	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30pm **Wednesday Night Supper & Classes **Details above**			7:30am - Running Club 9:00am - 12:30pm - Library Open 4:00pm - Blue Christmas 6:00pm - AA
5 2 ^{SD} Sunday of Advent	9	7	8 Advent in the Theater	6	10	11 Youth Group Bowling
CLASSES: 9:30 am - Youth Sunday School 9:35am - Rev. Roger's Class 9:35am - Chris Dake's Class 9:35am - Melodie Rowland's Class 9:15am - 12:15 pm - Library Open 3:00pm - Volleyball & Board Games 8:30am - 12:30pm - Blood Drive	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 4:00pm Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club) 6:30pm - Theology on Tap	6:15pm - AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30pm **Wednesday Night Supper & Classes **Details above ***	6:30pm - <i>THE POINT</i>		7:30am - Running Club 9:00am - 12:30pm - Library Open 8:00am - Brotherhood of St. Andrew 10:00am - GriefShare 11:00am - We Care 1:00pm - Youth - Bowling @ OOPS! 6:00pm - AA
12 3 RD Sunday of Advent	13	14	15 Advent in the Theater	16	17	18
CLASSES: 9:30 am - Youth Sunday School 9:35am - Rev. Roger's Class 9:35am - Chris Dake's Class 9:35am - Melodie Rowland's Class 9:15am - 12:15 pm - Library Open 3:00pm - Volleyball & Board Games	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Theology on Tap	6:30pm - AA 6:30pm - Compassionate Friends	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30pm **Wednesday Night Supper & Classes **Details above** 5:30pm - Youth Christmas Party	6:30pm - AA 6:30pm - <i>THE POINT</i>		7:30am - Running Club 9:00am - DOK 9:00am - 12:30pm - Library Open 10:00am - GriefShare 3:30 - 5:00pm - Youth Service Day 6:00pm - AA
19 4 TH Sunday of Advent	20	21	22 Advent in the Theater	23	24 Christmas Eve	24 Christmas Day
CLASSES: 9:30 am - Youth Sunday School 9:35am - Rev. Roger's Class 9:35am - Chris Dake's Class 9:35am - Melodie Rowland's Class 9:35am - 12:15 pm - Library Open 3:00pm - Volleyball & Board Games	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 4:00pm Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club) 6:30pm - Theology on Tap	6:15pm-AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30pm **Wednesday Night Supper & Classes **Details above**	6:15pm -AA 6:30pm - <i>THE POINT</i>	10:00am - Contemplative Worship 5:00pm - Family Worship Children's Pageant & Nativity	6:00pm - AA
26	27	28	29 No Wednesday Night Dinner or Classes	30	Candlelight Worship	
CLASSES: 9:30 am - Youth Sunday School 9:35am - Rev. Roger's Class 9:35am - Chris Dake's Class 9:35am - Melodie Rowland's Class 9:15am - Melodie Rowland's Class 9:15am - 12:15 pm - Library Open 3:00pm - Volleyball & Board Games	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Theology on Tap	6:15pm - AA 6:00pm - Vestry Meeting	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship			Please Note: The calendar is subject to change at ANY TIME to fit the needs of the Church. For updates, please see our website, www.holycrosspensacola.org.

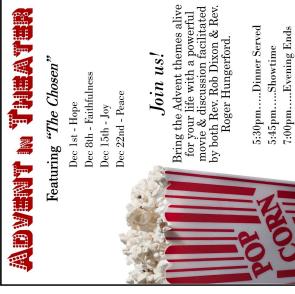
OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES & BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

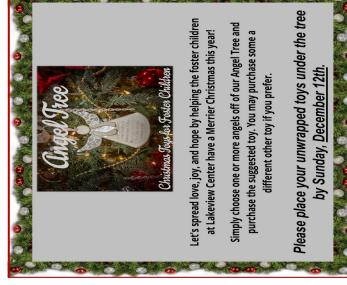


CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021

5:00pm - Family Worship, Children's Pageant & Nativity 10:00pm - Traditional Candlelight Worship 10:00am - Contemplative Worship





Hot Chocolate Ugly Sweater Contest Games COOKIES! Wednesday, December 15th Join us for an awesome Christmas Party! Please Bring a Friend!.

Birthdays December

03 - Rosemary Stoner 03 - Stephen Bell

23 - Victoria Wallington

18 - Neill Sidebotham 22 - Doris Pemberton

14 - Lamar Parsley 17 - Tom Backes

03 - Laura Welter

04 - Robin Polischuk 05 - Sean Haight

05 - Olga Stone

08 - Michele Hendrixson 08 - Ethan Winn

11 - Sydney Doggrel 12 - Wendy Boyer 14 - Brad Brennan

29 - Sarah Chau 30 - Sarah Peacock

28 - Stella Rose Dixon 28 - Ruth Goshorn

26 - Michael Schantz

24 - Jacob Boyer

30 - Jean Thatcher 31 - Jaxson Coleman 31 - Nettie Umbreit 31 - John Walker

December

Anniversaries

09 - Pat & Linda Tillery - 53 Years!

27 - Ray & Clara Potter - 63 Years! 28 - Craig & Rachel Iversen - 30 Years!

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