

Tower Chimes article for December, 2009

*"Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King."
from the hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory," by James Montgomery*

Since I was a child I can remember having an Advent wreath in our home during the Advent/Christmas season. I also remember this season being the only one during the year that was marked by the lighting of a series of candles—and lighting them in such a way as to create the anticipation of something wonderful soon to happen. And in my adult life, the experience has been very much the same.

Recently, Don and I located our wreath again. It's homemade and doesn't actually have greenery, but has a 1-inch slice of tree trunk for its base, and has a miniature nativity scene in the center surrounded by 4 wooden candle holders mounted equidistantly around it.

Every Sunday during Advent we light the appropriate number of candles and spend some time being quiet, just gazing at the candlelight. It is a peaceful time in which we reflect on the present Advent/Christmas season, and all the ones that came before. We remember that God still comes to us in a special way at this time of year. We remember that God still loves us and is with us no matter what is going on. And we remember that no gift we've ever received outshines the gift of the Christ child, and no challenge will ever be able to diminish or snuff out the power and grace that we continue to receive through the One who is our Savior and king.

In this holy season that we are beginning to enter, may your life go beyond the everyday level of living into the level of miraculous wonder at the reality of our God coming to us. Take some time, even if just a few moments each day, to reflect on our awesome God who comes to us with amazing grace through a child born in Bethlehem. And then on Christmas Eve, may we all come together and worship Christ, the newborn king!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Ruth