

2nd Sunday of Advent

When I was a boy – Henry’s Farm, 60 head of dairy, ...

Young calves being born

Wait and Watch for My Father & Sonny go looking for calf and mother

My sister and I prepare a stall under the Chicken coop

STRAW

HEAT LAMP then we would Wait and Watch

AND THEY WOULD COME CARRYING THE CALF – AS A GIFT

AND WE WERE READY

2nd week of Advent – and we prepare.

Advent wreath

we wait and watch

Jesse Tree

you can tell its coming

Gifts for the poor

Mark – refers to our 1st reading of Isaiah –

“Behold I am sending a messenger before You,

A voice crying out in the desert “prepare the way of the Lord”.

He was talking about JtheB – but it applies to us as well –

“Prepare the way of the Lord”

- take time to **prepare your heart** – **JC is coming & He wants your heart!**

In midst of all the Xmas excitement - **prepare your heart**

In midst of all the news about war - **prepare your heart**

In midst of our personal trials - **prepare your heart**

In midst of all “stuff” of life - **prepare your heart**

Prepare the way of the Lord IN YOU

Because He comes – and that’s Good News

Mark was the 1st Gospel written-

The readers of Mark had just seen Jerusalem sacked, homes burned, temple destroyed.

Mark sees all this and thinks – this is the end times (somebody ought to write this down)

and He writes the 1st Gospel

The readers of Mark saw the destruction of Jerusalem and their own persecution

BUT they **also** knew the love of Christ, and that love is real.

Advent is a season of hope – despite what we may be experiencing

Advent is Good News – we look for the coming messiah IN FAITH

Faith that carries us through all the personal troubles of life

the war in Israel, division in Congress, all of it

Even sin – OUR SIN MY SIN, YOUR SIN

Can't compete with the love Jesus brings us

In the midst of all the “stuff” we’re invited:

Take time this week – time apart to pray, time apart to prepare the way of the Lord,

prepare the way of the Lord – within ourselves and surrender to being loved by Christ.

It's why HE comes