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From
Pastor Linda

As we enter the Advent Season we remember again the gospel of John proclaiming of Jesus, "The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." Isn't

it an incredible thing to think that God has spoken everything he wants to say to us in this one person, Jesus Christ!

In the devotional book, *Just One Year*, Timothy Radcliffe writes... *"During Advent, we practice patience as we wait and watch for the coming of the Lord. Like midwives gathered around the bed, we await the birth. But God's coming was not just the birth of a child; it was the coming of a word. One might even say that it was the coming of a language.*

We needed hundreds of years for English to evolve to the point at which Shakespeare might write Hamlet. The language had to be formed by poets and lawyers, preachers, philosophers and peasants, by nurses and grave diggers, before it was ready. English society had undergone a profound transformation before English could be fertile with Shakespeare's words.

In a similar way it needed thousands of years before there was a language in which God's Word could be spoken in the form of Jesus."

The Word of God does not come down from heaven like a falling star, but wells up from within, in our deepest being. We needed innumerable prophets and scribes and poets struggling to find words before Jesus could be born as the Word. In our waiting, it is taking form in us.

During Advent, we recall all the beautiful words that have already been given in days long gone; the wonderful carols, the Biblical narrative of his coming, the inspiration of religious art, the prayers of the Church and the witness of those first to receive the gift of this Word, Jesus Christ, as a babe in the manger.

We invite you to join us during this Advent Season, and again find your voice to sing with us that Christ is born for us and our salvation. Our journey begins on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, and concludes as we celebrate Christ's birth on Christmas Eve at 7:30 PM with a candlelight service and on Sunday morning, Christmas Day, at 9:00 A.M. We will celebrate his birth with the language of song and praise as we share in Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. Let us find our voices and praise God for this gift of love.

Waiting at the manger, Pastor Linda

