



December 2017

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

When I was young, Christmas had a wonderful, almost magical feel to it. It was my favorite time of year. I got to spend time with family, it seemed everyone was more upbeat and happy, and I got to go home from my boarding school for a long holiday break! But after I became an adult, and particularly after my grandmother died, Christmas seemed to lose that magical feel. The 'wonder' of it all was gone. I think that's the reason why Christmas music is played so early on the radio nowadays; it's people trying to rekindle that wonder and magic in their hearts they remember from childhood.

The wonder of Christmas doesn't have to be left behind with childhood however. Our God is gracious and wants us to feel the magic and wonder of Christmas even as adults. How do we find that wonder again? This Advent, we are having a worship series titled "The Wonder of Christmas." In this series, which begins December 3rd, we will see the wonder of a star, the wonder of a name, the wonder of a manger, and the wonder of a promise. I invite you to join us in worship as we look at Christmas through a new lens this year. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

We are also making available a daily devotional book that goes along with the series. There is a devotion for every day of Advent. I invite you to pick up a copy from the church office for \$6.75. Christmas brings the wonder of seeing the world anew, as an artist perceiving that there is more to reality than meets the eye, more than the things that can be seen and touched.

Blessings to you and your family this Advent.

See you in worship.

Rev. G. Wiley Gladney

The devotional, a beautiful companion volume that functions beautifully on its own, and as part of the Advent worship series, offers four weeks of daily devotions on four elements of the Christmas story.

Each devotion includes Scripture and a reflection and prayer.

