

December 29, 2021

The Final Gift
[Jeremiah 31: 7-14](#)

“The Lord who scattered his people will gather them back together again and watch over them as a shepherd does his flock.”

We have made it through Advent and, according to the Liturgical calendar, we are now officially into the Christmas Season! We spent four weeks preparing, watching, and waiting. We counted down the days in anticipation of the big event! December 25th came and went.

And now what?

What kind of preparations did we make during those four weeks? Did we prepare shopping lists, menus, and cleaning schedules?

Did we watch for signs of the Christmas spirit? Did we look for it in the faces of our co-workers, or maybe fellow church members or club members?

Did we supplement our own Christmas Spirit by watching classic holiday movies and made for T.V. specials? And when it comes to waiting, most of us would agree that we spent way too much time waiting in check-out lines, traffic jams, and looking out the window hoping that our online orders were delivered in time to be wrapped and bedecked with garland and bows.

I'm not saying that we need to do away with the hustle and bustle that we've come to experience during Advent and Christmas. Many folks, if they were honest with themselves, look forward to it. I'm not suggesting that we make a huge deal out of preparing, watching, and waiting.

I think we can keep it simple. **Prepare** ourselves, just a little, by reflecting on the messages of Advent and Christmas. **Watch** for the spirit of Christmas by paying attention to the faces and voices of small children that exude the simple joy of the season.

Wait?? The wait never ends.

I'm not talking about the fact that the whole process will start over next November. I'm talking about waiting for the final gift. God's children waited for the coming of the Messiah. His becoming human made it possible for us to receive eternal life. To obtain that *final* gift we must pass from this earthly life into the next.

Prayer: *Dear heavenly father, we thank you for providing your son, who's ultimate sacrifice provided us with your most divine gift of life in heaven. Amen.*

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