

**Aveleigh's
Second Week of Advent
Dec. 10, 2017
Sermon: MAY YOU BE SURPRISED BY CHRISTMAS
Res.Lesson Is 9:2- 7 p. 742**

Heb. 4:14-16 p. 1291

A BRIEF RETELLING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 1:27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **Luke 2:5 Joseph** went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Luke 2:6-7 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

REMEMBERING GOD'S PROMISE AND PURPOSE

**Is 9: 6, ⁶For to us a child is born, to us
a son is given, and the government
will be on his shoulders.**

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

THE FIRST SURPRISE OF CHRISTMAS TEACHS US THAT JESUS UNDERSTANDS MORE THAN YOU THINK.

...for unto us a child is born.... Is. 9:6

HERE'S A SECOND TRUTH THAT WE SEE IN THESE SURPRISES. IT'S THAT JESUS CARES FOR YOU MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

..... AND HE WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR.....Is 9:6

ONE LAST THING THAT WE LEARN THAT SURPRISES US AT CHRISTMAS IS THAT JESUS CAN DO MORE THAN YOU REALIZE.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.Is 9:6

PRAYER Almighty god , wonderful counselor, Prince of Peace, Your ways are not our ways. Most of the time we wish they were. So when it does not go as we expected, help us to hand our controls over to You, that we might once more be surprised at Christmas. Amen

FOUR FOR THE ROAD:

- 1. When have you been surprised?**
- 2. Are all surprises negative? Are there any pleasant surprises?**
- 3. What pleasant surprises have you received?**
- 4. Does Jesus ever surprise you? How? When?**

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Call to worship

Call: Church, prepare to worship! Emmanuel is with us!

Response: A child is coming, a child of wisdom and strength and beauty.

Call: The authority of God will rest upon his shoulders.

Response: He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.

Call: He will be called the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Response: He is King of Kings and Lord of lords.

Call: Jesus, Jesus is his name!

Response: His is the name before whom every knee will bow.

Call: Every song of praise will be cast as crowns before him.

Response: For Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, God with us. Let us worship!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful Savior, in our rush to Christmas joy, we confess that, like our culture, we would prefer to skip Advent's invitation to stillness, reflection and preparation. Shiny wrappings and ornaments are more festive than looking at the ways we fall short of the call to be your people. Holiday parties and shopping conveniently blind us to the poverty of those who will celebrate your birth with neither tree nor gifts. Our busyness numbs us to the despair felt by many during this time of year. Thank you for your faithful prophets whose voice pierces our self-absorbed thoughts with the truth we need to face: we are lost, we are broken, we need you. Come, Lord Jesus. Come into our hearts with mercies new this morning, grace sufficient for this day, forgiveness that cleanses us from our guilt and sin. We gratefully receive the Christ child again. Amen.