

## From the Pastor's Desk

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God" - Isaiah 40: 3-5

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have a confession to make. As I pen this at the end of October, I haven't started preparing for Christmas. Or rather, I should say, that normally by this time, I have completed my Christmas shopping and wrapping (a family trait), but that simply hasn't happened this year. I've planned our special services together, but beyond that I am stuck.

Perhaps it is the idea of preparing itself that I am stuck on. Preparing requires intention and forethought. It requires presence in this moment as well as to the future. It can be difficult to prepare, not just for the holidays, but for anything. We are a people who, yes, live with anticipation, but at times that anticipation can almost be overwhelming.

Which is why I so deeply appreciate this season of Advent. It calls for us to slow down and truly prepare not just for the birth of Christ, but for the time when he will come again, victorious! It is a time that isn't about the to-do list leading up to the holidays, but about preparing our hearts, that hard and holy work that is ongoing.

How are you preparing for Christ, my friends? And how can we support you in this journey as your church family?

- Pastor Michelle