

# MINISTER'S Message

November 27, 2018

## Have a Blessed Advent ...

The seasons are changing - not just in the natural world, but in the church world. In fact, we have come to the end of the Christian Church Year. The old year ended with this past Sunday, Reign of Christ Sunday – as we celebrated and remembered the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

We ended the year with words from John's gospel that remind us that Jesus came to reveal to us the truth. The essence of that truth? God's love – unconditional love, for all of creation, love that lifts up the poor, the marginalized, the lost and alone.

This week, we begin a new year in the life of the church, and a new season. We call it Advent. During Advent, the church world will prepare for the great birth, the coming of God incarnate, in a little babe named Jesus.

Now we know that the secular world started getting ready weeks ago, but it feels like there is something missing to that kind of getting ready. The season of Advent is about spiritually getting ready. It's about preparing for the coming of God into our lives in new and wonderful ways, ways that call us to seek hope, peace, joy and love in our world. And where those things are hard to find, we are called to engage in actions that build those qualities in our communities.

What will you do to find places of hope, of peace, of joy and of love in these days? Who might you invite to join you on the journey? May God's blessing be upon you this Advent.

Blessings and Peace,

*Rev. Tammy Allan*

*Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge of the United Church*

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. LUKE 2:4-5

