

Second Sunday of Advent 2020

Waiting!!! You wait your turn, you wait for the bus, you wait in line, you wait for your birthday and you wait to go on vacation.

Advent is a time of waiting or a time for getting ready. When someone special is coming for a visit, your family makes a list of everything that needs to be done before they get there. Cleaning, shopping and cooking. You are so excited to see them, to play with them and to eat all of that special food. Waiting is so hard!!

The people of Israel had been waiting a very long time. God had promised to send his son to save them. God promised to send them signs so they would be ready. And they waited!!

Now God kept His promise and sent a man who was different from the others. He lived in the desert eating locust (yuck) and wild honey. His clothes were made of camel's hair. There was no one else like him. His name was John the Baptist. It was written "Someone is shouting in the desert, get the road ready for the Lord, make a straight path for him to travel". People came from the Province of Judea and the city of Jerusalem to hear what John had to say. They listened to John, they confessed what they had done wrong and they were baptized by John. He announced to the people that another will come after me and he is much greater than I am. I am not even good enough to untie his shoes. I baptize with water, but he will baptize with the Holy Spirit. We also hear what John the Baptist has to say and we wait for the coming of the Son of God. Waiting is not easy. What will you do while you are waiting?

Here is a Word Find you can try. These are the words you are looking for:

WAITING

JOHN

DESERT

HONEY

LOCUST

GOD

ISRAEL

SPIRIT

SON

BAPTIZE

T	W	A	N	H	O	J	E	D
I	B	A	P	T	I	Z	E	E
R	I	I	I	O	U	I	P	S
I	S	B	C	T	D	F	G	E
P	R	H	J	K	I	L	D	R
S	A	M	N	S	O	N	O	T
P	E	H	O	N	E	Y	G	Q
R	L	O	C	U	S	T	S	T

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Now if you are still waiting, here's a story about that you may read. This is taken from THE LEGEND OF THE THREE TREES adapted by Catherine McCafferty.

On the third day of Creation God created the trees, bushes, grasses, plants in every size, shape and color. This is the story of a little Olive Tree. This little tree dreamed of becoming a beautiful and important Treasure Chest. As the tree grew and grew it continued to dream of being a treasure chest decorated with sparkling jewels that would hold the greatest treasure in the world. He knew he would be waiting for years until he was big enough.

After waiting a very long time, a man came to the forest. He walked among the trees looking for the one he needed. Deep inside the Olive Tree was saying “choose me, choose me.” The man did

choose the Olive Tree. He cut it down and carried it to his workshop. He cut the wood into boards and hammered them into a box shape. But the man did not polish the wood, he did not decorate the box with jewels and he did not fill the box with treasure. Instead the man dragged the box into a messy, smelly, disgusting stable. Did I say really **SMELLY**? AND THEN THE BOX WAS FILLED WITH HAY not treasure.

The Olive Tree was crushed. It would not become a treasure chest; it would not hold something very, very special.

Many years passed. The Olive Tree no longer dreamed of being special. What greatness would come to a feed box? One night, shepherds not far from the stable, keeping watch over their flock, saw an angel. A great light filled the sky. The angel told them not to be afraid, for the Savior had been born in Bethlehem.

Just as the angel had said, the shepherds found the baby lying in a manger. The Olive Tree had not become a treasure chest, but now as a manger it held the greatest treasure of all time—God's only Son, Jesus. The Olive Tree had reached it's dream. Some things are really worth WAITING for!!!!

