

Sermon Title: The Season of Advent, Part II 12.7.2025

Themes: The sovereignty of the Father and the birth of the Son. Live-streaming and sermon notes are at trinitycg.org.

Weekly Question: Have *you* made room for Jesus this Christmas? The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of Advent is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Messiah (His First Advent), and the anticipation of the return of Christ (His Second Advent). Advent scripture emphasizes themes of accountability, the judgment of sin, God's love for mankind, and the promise of eternal life. The second candle can be pink, representing love and Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Advent Candle Scripture: **Luke 2:1-7**.

Sermon Points: 1. The plans of man verses the plans of God. Focus Scripture: **Isaiah 59:14–16**. Caesar Augustus (23 September 63 BC – 19 August 14 AD) was the first Roman Emperor. Octavian was adopted by his great-uncle Julius Caesar in 44 BC. In 27 BC the Senate awarded him the honorific title Augustus ("the illustrious one"). It was in the early days of the Roman Empire, when Caesar Augustus was still alive, that the story of Jesus's birth unfolded. **Luke 2:1-2**. Worldly power exposes who we really are: *we* are on display. Kingdom power reveals who Christ is: *He* is in view! Yet, God is sovereign over all of it! *Worldly power* ultimately rests on physical power. It is gained, taken, or protected through strength and naturally results in control over others. Worldly power generally seeks an advantage over others for *personal* fame and gain. *Kingdom power* is spiritual power. We don't gain it. We don't even earn it. We receive it...and not by our strength and control, but by our weakness and submission. Worldly power is about control by those in charge. Kingdom power is about freedom from sin through Christ. To wield *worldly power* requires *force*. *Kingdom power* requires *grace*. **Luke 9:23–26**.

2. The power of man versus the power of God. Worldly power flaunts the gold. Kingdom power follows God. Jeff Bezos' mega yacht is a three-masted sailing yacht about 417 feet long that cost \$485–500 million to build. The masts are over 230 feet tall. Estimated annual operating costs: \$25 million. Docking can cost tens of thousands per night. I has reportedly taken up two docking spots in some marinas. Bezos also has a support yacht that carries a helipad, crew, and other amenities that is valued at \$75 million. That is impressive, but God calls us to a salvation that is far greater! **Matthew 20:26–28**. Into the empire of Caesar Augustus was born the King of kings! **Luke 2:3-7**.

3. The peace of man versus the peace of God. The Romans valued order, and Caesar Augustus helped to establish it. Yet, true and lasting peace comes from the true and eternal Prince of Peace. **Philippians 4:4–7**. Worldly peace often means defeating your enemies to establish your rule. Kingdom peace can be found even in the midst of life's battles! Worldly peace is fleeting and needs to be won constantly. Kingdom Peace is eternal. Worldly leaders *fade into history*. Jesus is the *foundation of history*! Worldly leaders lose all their power *in the world* when they die. Jesus *ascended into Heaven* after He was crucified! The peace of the world is temporary, but God's peace is everlasting. Even in the chaos of life's circumstances we can have peace...and we don't have to defeat anyone but ourselves to achieve it. Christ changed the world in three years. He can change us, and we can change Casa Grande through peace with Him by His grace. Do you believe this can happen? Who will pray for it? Who will intercede on behalf of the lost? Have *you* made room for Jesus this Christmas? **Isaiah 59:14–16**. God was appalled and astonished that no one would intercede...so He sent His own Son to be His hands, feet, heart, and voice. The living John 3:16. Four beautiful treasures we glean from the Bethlehem scene:

1. Mary's faithfulness reminds us that quiet obedience is profoundly honored by God.
2. Even though the world had no space for Jesus in their inn, His people have plenty of room for Him and for others in their heart.
3. Christ entered the world in humility because His glory is not threatened by simple settings.
4. Caesar Augustus was organizing an expansive empire while God was planning an eternal Kingdom.

Reflection: Lord, grant me Your peace that surpasses all understanding.