

Enews for 11/22/2023
Advent Devotions

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, some congregations have chosen to start Advent this coming Sunday so that they can focus exclusively on Christmas Eve on December 24. Others are keeping the traditional calendar with Advent services in the morning and Christmas Eve at night. Whatever schedule your congregation is following I hope that you take advantage of one of the many opportunities to deepen your faith during this season of preparation. Here are a few of my favorites that I commend for you:

The Christmas Story in Art – This is a webinar led by Richard Blackburn, the Director Emeritus of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Richard is also an Art Historian specializing in Italian Renaissance Art. He invites us to reflect on the story of God’s incarnation in Christ as it has inspired artists through the Early Christian, Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods and to let their faith expressed in art enrich our own. This webinar will be offered twice on Wednesday, November 29 at 8pm Eastern and on Thursday, November 30 at 2pm Eastern. ([Click here to register](#)). At the end of the webinar he will also share information about the [Pilgrimage of Faith and Art](#) that he will be leading in Florence, Italy in September 2024.

The Advent Project – Many of you told me that you appreciated the Lent Project that I shared earlier this year. Good news, Biola University’s Center for Christianity, Culture, & the Arts also has a daily scripture reflection with music, poetry, and art during Advent too! For those starting Advent early you will need to wait a week but it does continue on through Epiphany. This year’s theme is *The Vision of Isaiah: Praying with the Poet Prophet of Advent*. [Click here for more information including how you can have it emailed to you daily.](#)

The Redemption of Scrooge – The Rev. John Ritchie from the Vine Fellowship will be leading a presbytery-wide weekly study on Zoom using *The Redemption of Scrooge* by Matt Rawle. He is offering the study at 6pm on Sundays (Nov 26, Dec 3, 10 & 17) and at noon on Wednesdays (Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, & 21). [Click here for the Zoom link to join either session.](#) I hope to see you there!

May the Peace of Christ be with you,
Barry