



Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room

An Advent Children's Sermon
to Accompany the Distribution
of the MLAM Magnet

Good morning, boys and girls, and happy Advent to you all. I greet you all that way today because we are now in the Church Season of Advent. This is the special time when we get ready to welcome Jesus. Jesus' birthday celebration takes place on Christmas, we know, and there are many things we do in these

weeks before that celebration to get ready, to prepare, to welcome Jesus on that special day and every day of our lives.

When I prepare for a party, like a birthday celebration, I like to decorate! You can see we have special decorations in our church this time of year. We have a wreath with candles on it! The wreath looks a little bit like a birthday cake, doesn't it. Each Sunday in Advent we light a new candle on the Advent wreath and count the weeks until our welcome celebration. The blue (or violet) color of those candles and the other decorations in church are the color of royalty. That color reminds us that our King, Jesus, is on his way. The pink candle is a joyful color, a reminder that Jesus comes for a happy reason. He loves us and comes to bring us forgiveness and the joy of everlasting life!

But this Advent season is about much more than putting up party decorations. Like the hymn "Joy to the World" tells us, "Let every heart prepare him room!" Advent is the time for us to prepare for the birth of Jesus in our *hearts*. We do that by praying to Jesus, going to church, reading the Bible, and talking about Jesus with those around us. We prepare our hearts by wrapping gifts for loved ones as a reminder that Jesus is the greatest gift of all. We bake cookies for people to help us remember that Jesus is the Bread of Life and he makes our lives sweet with his goodness. We put lights and decorations on our Christmas trees to call to mind that we are adorned with many precious blessings from above that make our lives shimmer and sparkle for him.

I have a magnet gift for you. I hope the decoration on this magnet helps you to remember that, as we prepare our homes for the Christmas celebration, we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus in all you say and do this Advent season.