

Real life formation, and the real formation God wants to do in us, usually doesn't come from the wild and extravagant. It comes from the hard, the mess, the mundane.

Like Genesis tells the story of God creating, Matthew begins to tell a real life story of a new beginning - a new work - a new kingdom.

The word Advent means 'coming' or 'arrival'. In ancient times, Israel actively anticipated the arrival of a King who would free them of oppressive injustice. They awaited a Messiah who would heal their wounds inherited by the sins of their fathers and satisfy the longing of their souls. Likewise, we too await the coming of a King, someone to liberate us from same injustice and brokenness that we have inherited, and which we have inflicted upon ourselves, and others. The focus of Advent is anticipation and celebration; we celebrate the King who came in His first Advent, and anticipate the King who has promised to come again in His second Advent.

Abraham (1:1-2)

Tamar (1:3)

Rahab (1:5)

Ruth (1:5)

David & Uriah's Wife (1:6)

Solomon (1:7)

Uzziah (1:8)

Amon (1:10)

Joseph (1:16)

Matthew 1:16

And Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary, who gave birth to Jesus who is called the Messiah.

We see hope in others.

We see hope in a promise kept.

We see hope in safety.

James 3:14

But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

1 John 1:8-9

If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



Consider

Take time to confess to God the areas of your life that seem hopeless. Name them.

Ask

Ask for grace to begin to see how God is working in you through them.