

Advent 2B 2020  
The Church of the Redeemer, Greenville, SC  
December 6, 2020

*Our sermon today is an intergenerational activity. We begin with a box wrapped in Christmas paper and tied with a blue ribbon.*

*Our “Merry Christmas!” wrap is tied up with the blue ribbon of Advent. We have the four week season of Advent before we reach Christmas. The color purple (or blue) is to let us know that this is a serious time. We are preparing for Jesus to come. During this time we pray, “come, Lord Jesus!”*

*Advent is a special season of waiting. We talk about being in darkness because we are waiting for Jesus to be born and to come again into our lives. So we count the Sundays and the weeks: 4, 3, 2, 1, and then something very special happens.*

*What happens at the end of Advent, our season of waiting? Jesus is born, and today we have a fun way to think about Jesus.*

When you tear off the Christmas paper, the box is wrapped in birthday paper

*Happy birthday, Jesus! Christmas is Jesus’ birthday! We celebrate with presents and Christmas trees and parties. But underneath, Christmas is all about Jesus.*

Tear off the birthday wrapping paper to find new baby paper.

*Why do we have our present wrapped in baby paper? That’s right, because Jesus came to us as a baby. This paper is blue baby paper, because Jesus was born as a baby boy. God’s Son came to us in the form of a little baby. Come, Lord Jesus!*

Tear off the baby wrapping paper to find paper with stars on it!

*When Jesus was born, shepherds found where Jesus was by following stars in the sky. Of all the stars that there are, a special one pointed the way to the baby Jesus.*

The layer of wrapping paper under the star paper is plain brown paper.

*Jesus was born in a manger, a stable for animals. He comes to all of us as a poor, vulnerable baby, even though He is the one who saves us. People thought that Jesus would be a great king who fought wars and had armies and a big fortress, a palace, and that he would conquer the world in the way that they expected him to do. But God comes to us this way, unexpected and in just the right way for us to welcome Him.*

Tear off the brown wrapping paper to find newspaper.

*What else do we say about Jesus' story? The story of Jesus is told in the four gospels in our Bible, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The gospels are the "Good News" of Jesus Christ. We tell His story to the whole world, this wonderful news of our baby Jesus.*

Open box! *Inside the box is brown wrapping/straw, a white candle and some torn strips of white cloth.*

*How did Jesus come to us? That's right in a manger bed, wrapped in swaddling clothes. Jesus is the light of the world, and he will be here with us again on Christmas. We will sing songs, say "Merry Christmas" to one another and open presents, all because the light of the world has come to us again.*