



## ***Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast November 28, 2021, Advent begins!***

***“The Jewish Expectations of a Messaiah”***

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### **The Jewish Expectations of a Messiah**

*“Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord... I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.”  
(Psalm 130:1,5)*

Thinking back a thousand years before the birth of Christ, what were the ancients’ expectations, what was the Jewish experience, the lives of God’s people? Oppression, slavery, exile, and periods of faithless depression. We see over and over in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and the Psalms images of physical and spiritual darkness. Yet, we also find hope and images of light. In the first part of the book of Isaiah, written in the 700’s BCE, the coming of light to end the people’s darkness is in the form of the ideal king:

*“But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. ... the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.” [9:1-2]*

Indeed, they faithfully believed an ideal king, an ancestor of David, was coming who would bring justice and peace. Undoubtedly this Savior King, this Messiah, would arrive in shining armor, surrounded by a dedicated, well-armed soldiers to destroy the oppressors and enemies of Judah. Handel’s “Messiah” famously captured the ancients’ spirit of waiting in hope and faith:

*“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)*

But that Messiah – the Christ – was not what was expected. Not an armed Warrior, but the Prince of Peace, the Son of Man, who taught love not domination. What can we “moderns” learn anew?

**Selected Scripture for your Meditations for Advent Week 1:** The Jewish expectations of a Messiah (Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 130, Jeremiah 23:5-6; 33:14-16)

**Special prayers this week:** for the leaders of God’s church in the world; for leaders of all nations; for health care workers everywhere; for law enforcement officers and first responders; for an impending birth.... Hear our prayers O Lord!

### **The Advent Candles**



*The first candle in Advent symbolizes hope and is called the “Prophet’s Candle.”  
The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah’s arrival.*