

Esther and Emmett – Add-a-Vent Advent

Emmett: Hi Esther.

Esther: Hi Emmett.

Emmett: I hear that there's some duct work being done at the church during this lockdown.

Esther: Really? I hadn't heard about that!

Emmett: I imagine it's something to do with the heating or air conditioning.

Esther: Are you sure? Where did you hear this?

Emmett: I heard one of the ministers say that this was the season to add vents.

Esther: I think the minister probably said that this is the season of Advent.

Emmett: That's what I said.

Esther: No, you said that it is the season to add a vent. I said that it is the season of Advent.

Emmett: Add a vent.

Esther: Advent.

Emmett: Is this a case of tomato – tom-ah-to?

Esther: No, it's about seasons. We have yearly seasons – summer, fall, winter and spring.

Emmett: We could probably install vents during any of those seasons.

Esther: The church divides the year into a different set of seasons. There is the season of Easter, the season of Christmas, the season of Lent, which is the six weeks leading up to Easter, and there is also the season of ADVENT, four Sundays and weeks leading up to Christmas. Advent – it's one word, spelt A-D-V-E-N-T. Advent!

Emmett: Advent! Well, Jesus was a carpenter, so he probably installed a few vents.

Esther: The word 'Advent' means 'coming'. The season of Advent is the time when we know that Christmas is coming, the birth of Jesus is coming.

Emmett: So Advent is not about air-conditioning?

Esther: It's more about faith conditioning. This Advent, we are preparing for the birth of Jesus by reading the story of his birth in the gospel of Matthew.

Emmett: I like the story of Jesus' birth, with Mary and Joseph and angels, and magi.

Esther: Today's reading is about the magi, who saw a star rising, and realized it meant that a king was being born.

Emmett: Was Jesus a king?

Esther: We call Jesus a king, because kings care for all the people of the kingdom, and Jesus cares for all the people of God's kingdom – all the people of the world.

Emmett: That's a lot of people. In fact, that's everyone!

Esther: Jesus cared about people who were hungry, and blind, and lame, and worried, and poor; about people who fished, who collected taxes, who served in the army...

Emmett: Everyone should care about everyone.

Esther: The birth of Jesus tells us that God loves this world, and Jesus shows us how to share God's love with everyone.

Emmett: So, this season is really about the 'advent' of God's love for everyone?

Esther: And how God wants us to love everyone. So, this is the season of Advent.

Emmett: Or, as some might say, the season of 'add A-Vent.'

Esther: AMEN

Emmett: AMEN