

# IN EXCELSIS DEO

## ADVENT 2024

**Saturday, December 7**

**Read: Luke 12:35-38**

One of my favorite parts of the Christmas season is decorating the tree. Why? Well, once the tree is up, it feels like a visual official start to the Christmas season. It's the first thing I like to do when preparing for the season. But what does the tree prepare for? The tree is decorated all season, WAITING for the presents to be placed under it and then opened on Christmas morning. The Christmas tree serves as a protector for all of the presents it collects until it is time for the presents to be unveiled on the long-awaited morning of Christmas day.

How do we prepare ourselves for the long-awaited gift of Jesus' birth on Christmas morning? We decorate and adorn ourselves by our devotion to Christ through service to others. But how can we serve and become more Christ-like as we wait? Think of ways you can spend time serving the church community, your neighborhood, the food bank, or even a toy drive.

In Luke 12:35-38, we are told to adorn ourselves for service and keep our light so that when our master makes His appearance, we are ready and waiting to serve.

How can you prepare to serve our master this Christmas season?

In what ways can you ensure that your heart is fixed with service as we enter the Christmas season?

What about during all of the family events when you are just absolutely ready for your presents? How can you serve those around you so that you are prepared to serve just as Christ would when He arrives?

No matter how you prepare for Christ's birth on Christmas morning, remember that we are always preparing for His return throughout the year. Find ways to serve not just during this Advent season when we emphasize service, but all year long.

Nicole Patton