Advent

THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

TRINITY
CHURCH

ADVENT

Noun

From Latin, adventus

ad 'to' + venire 'come'

The arrival of a notable person.

The coming or second coming of Jesus Christ.

November - December, 2026

November 29

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reading: Isaiah 64:4–9 and Isaiah 2:5

Isaiah 64:4–9 (NIV)

> 4 Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen
> any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. 5 You
> come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But
> when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be
> saved? 6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous
> acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins
> sweep us away. 7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for
> you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. 8 Yet
> you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the
> work of your hand. 9 Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember
> our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

Isaiah 2:5 (NIV)

> 5 Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Comment

As we prepare for the Christmas season - decorating the tree, shopping, deciding who's family to visit, when or where to holiday, so too, as Christians we remember how Jesus came as a baby, while anticipating his second coming as the resurrected Lord God. We begin Advent in Isaiah, remembering how the brokenness of the world is inescapable and how thing's aren't as they should be. In Isaiah's day, God's people are reminded of their sin and need for God's rescue and mercy to them. And so, as Advent comes around every year, let us reorientate our hearts and minds to the hope of the coming of Jesus, confess our sins and walk in the light of the Lord this December.

This Week

What are some evidences of the brokenness of this world that you've seen this week? How does the return of Jesus help reframe the way you see them?

Think about someone you know who might be feeling overcome by darkness. What are some ways you can point them to the hope of Christ's advent this week?

Prayer

> O Lord our God,
>
> make us watchful and keep us faithful
>
> as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
>
> that, when he shall appear,
>
> he may not find us sleeping in sin
>
> but active in his service
>
> and joyful in his praise;
>
> through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

December 6

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah 40:1–11 (NIV)

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has
been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her
sins. 3 A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be
raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become
level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 A
voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. 7 The grass withers and
the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the
people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our
God endures forever." 9 You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high
mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a
shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your
God!" 10 See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a
mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies
him. 11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and
carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Comment

The repeated words, Comfort, Comfort in Isaiah 40 signals a great change in the book. Suddenly, the warnings and woes of the previous 39 chapters give way to hope and peace. How does this come? Though the voice of God, gathering, carrying and gently leading his

people as he covers and pays for their sins. This is the great anticipation of advent, that Jesus is coming and he will redeem the world to himself. All the good things of December - rest, food, family, friends, BBQ's and beach days are tiny moments of grace we look forward to and can enjoy. But, Advent asks us to anticipate something much more wonderful, the coming of Jesus. Despite the withering and fading of God's people in Isaiah's day, despite their fickle loyalty, God will remain true to his word and will return in power to care for us.

This Week

How does the immanence of Christ's return impact how you view what you're doing in the here and now? How does the way you structure your life reflect a belief that Jesus really is coming back?

Prayer

Father in heaven,

who sent your Son to redeem the world

and will send him again to be our judge:

give us grace so to imitate him

in the humility and purity of his first coming

that, when he comes again,

we may be ready to greet him

with joyful love and firm faith;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Song

Come Tho Long Expected Jesus

December 13

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reading: Isaiah 7:13-14, Isaiah 64:10-12 and Luke 1:46-55

Isaiah 7:13–14 (NIV)

13 Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the
patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? 14 Therefore
the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to
a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 64:10–12 (NIV)

10 Your sacred cities have become a wasteland; even Zion is a wasteland,
Jerusalem a desolation. 11 Our holy and glorious temple, where our ancestors
praised you, has been burned with fire, and all that we treasured lies in ruins.
12 After all this, Lord, will you hold yourself back? Will you keep silent and
punish us beyond measure?

Luke 1:46–55 (NIV)

46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God
my Saviour, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has
done great things for me— holy is his name. 50 His mercy extends to those
who fear him, from generation to generation. 51 He has performed mighty
deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost
thoughts. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up
the humble. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich
away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful 55
to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Comment

Joy is a natural part of Christmas and the advent season. In the Isaiah 64 reading (We read the first half 2 weeks ago), the people are rejoicing at the thought that God would return and restore their land, temple and people to the way things should be, even if now, sin and sadness is present. In Luke, Mary celebrates the coming of Jesus as a great gift. What makes advent joyful, over and above the bits and pieces around us, is how Jesus, Immanuel, comes to dwell among us, restoring and reconciling creation and us back to God. And it's here, that we, like Mary, can respond out of praise and gratitude. So, even if December is full of sadness, grief and sorrow, may you know that your God is present, that there is joy in his coming and that Advent reminds us that merry and bright have broken into our world.

This Week

How might you set your heart, mind and home on the joy of Jesus this week? How can you encourage someone else in this too? How can you respond with praise and gratitude to God for his gift of Jesus as you go about ending the year and getting ready for Christmas?

Prayer

> Lord, Blessed Trinity, to You alone be the glory this day. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thank You. I thank You for the grace and mercy of Your wondrous salvation. I have done nothing to deserve such a tremendous gift. Even calling salvation a "tremendous gift" does not encompass The fullness of its beauty and wonder.
>
> But how easily I forget this salvation in my current daily life. How easily I take it for granted and stop at its face value.
>
> But Spirit, You have been, and continue to be, faithful in helping me to see more of this wondrous salvation. You are saving me. Thank You, Lord.
>
> Yet this salvation is also my future guarantee. What I experience right now in part, I will experience later in full. This salvation gives me a living, breathing, active hope That is certain as it moves me forward to the life that is to come. You will save me. Thank You, Lord.

Song

Joy To The World

December 20

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-5 and Luke 1:26-38

Isaiah 11:1–5 (NIV)

1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will
bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and
of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the
knowledge and fear of the Lord— 3 and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears
with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he
will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the
rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5
Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

Luke 1:26–38 (NIV)

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to
Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man
named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The
angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord
is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what
kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid,
Mary; you have found favour with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a
son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son
of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33
and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never
end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The
angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most
High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of
God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and
she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word

from God will ever fail." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Comment

Today we live between the two advents of Christ. Just like Mary, we too can relate to the expectancy she must have felt. Mary received the good news that she would be carrying in her womb the King who would sit on David's throne, the shoot from the stump of Jesse. Advent is the reminder that the Good King has come. And, the reminder that the Good King will come again. So, we wait longingly, through sometimes difficult and trying circumstances, for the return of the Son of God to fully establish His kingdom on earth. This is a kingdom we are invited into, a kingdom where the ruler gives best for us, and a kingdom that will remove all the pain and suffering and mundane of this life. This is a good ruler we can trust, 'For no word from God will ever fail.'

This Week

Think of a time when you or someone close to you was pregnant. How did a sense of expectancy mark the pregnancy? Did attitudes and expectations change throughout? How does this inform the way you think about expecting Christ's return?

When Mary was approached by Gabriel with the news of her child, she exhibited an incredible openness to God. In what areas might God be calling you to a deeper faith and openness toward His will?

Prayer

Eternal God,

as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,

so we wait for his coming in glory;

bring us through the birth pangs of this present age

to see, with her, our great salvation

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Song

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 2:4–14 and Mark 1:14–15

Isaiah 9:2–7 (NIV)

> 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on
> his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
> Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and
> peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his
> kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from
> that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Luke 2:4–14 (NIV)

> 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to
> Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of
> David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to
> him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the
> baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him
> in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room
> available for them. 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby,
> keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to
> them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10
> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will
> cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Saviour has
> been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You
> will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great
> company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and
> saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on
> whom his favour rests."

Mark 1:14–15 (NIV)

> 14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Comment

Not long after the plates are pushed away and the wrapping paper is overflowing from the yellow bin, we get a notification about New Years. Then, Australia Day, the back to school sales start and work begins for another year. All too soon, hot cross buns are here and mark the beginning of Easter. All the buildup over the last month —the decorations, the music, the parties, the shopping—has led to this moment, and now it's over. Except, Advent reminds us that Christmas is not an end in itself. The truth, however is that Christmas is a beginning. When Jesus begins His earthly ministry in Mark's Gospel, He proclaims, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." The good news is that Jesus has come to reign as our King and is coming again soon to fully realise His kingship. The hope, joy and anticipation of Christmas is meant to be kept alive in us, all year, as we keep looking to and trusting Jesus, our God who is with us.

This Week

What are some practical ways you can continue to live in the joy of the Saviour's reign, even after the Christmas activities are all finished?

Prayer

> Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Song

O Holy Night