

Advent 2025

**“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.”**

**(Isaiah 9:2)**

Dear friends in Christ,

This weekend, we begin the season of Advent—a time of holy waiting, hopeful expectation, and renewed devotion. Each year, the Church invites us once more to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Advent is far more than a countdown to Christmas, it’s a sacred journey that holds before us two great truths: Christ has come—born as a child in Bethlehem for our salvation, and Christ will come again—as King of glory to judge the living and the dead. We live our Christian lives between these two comings, called to watch, to wait, and to be found faithful. Advent—a time when the church dares to speak of light in the midst of darkness—occurs each year, as the days grow shorter and the nights lengthen. The world may see only the fading of the sun and the year’s end, but we know that something far greater is stirring: the dawning of the true Light, Jesus Christ our Lord.

From the first moment of creation, God spoke light into being. Yet, humanity has often chosen the shadows. Still, God’s love would not be extinguished. In Bethlehem’s quiet night, the eternal Word became flesh, and the light of heaven broke into the world’s darkness. As John tells us, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” This is the heart of our Advent hope: the darkness is real, but it’s not final. Advent reminds us that this light still shines—often quietly, sometimes unnoticed, yet always victorious. It shines in every act of mercy, every word of forgiveness, every moment of prayer. It shines in our worship and our service, in candles lit upon the wreath, and in hearts that refuse despair. The world around us can feel heavy with conflict, grief, and uncertainty. However, Advent calls us not to hide from the darkness, but to bear witness to the light—to trust that Christ is at work even now, transforming hearts and renewing creation.

Advent also turns our gaze forward, to that promised day when the Lord Jesus will come again, not as a child in a manger but as King in glory. Then the light will no longer flicker in a dark world, it will blaze across the heavens, and night will be no more. Every tear will be wiped away, and the radiance of Christ will fill all things. Until that day, we’re called to walk as children of the light, and to reflect the brightness of Christ in our homes, church, and community. And so, may our words be gracious, our hearts generous, and our lives radiant with hope because even the smallest flame can scatter the deepest night.

I invite you this Advent to step into the light. Make time for stillness and prayer. Join in our worship and study. Light your candles at home as signs of faith. Let the light of Christ illumine whatever darkness you may carry, and may that same light shine through you into the world He loves. May the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” shine in your hearts this Advent and always, to give the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

With every blessing for a holy and joyful Advent, and in the love and light of Christ,

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