

**Advent Sunday ~ Sunday, November 30, 2025**

**“The Light is Coming ~ Hope in the Darkness”**

**Isaiah 64:1-9 & Mark 13:24-37**

*Advent = adventus =*

Advent is a season marked by \_\_\_\_\_, anticipation, and longing as we prepare to celebrate the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus—not just in His first advent, as a baby in Bethlehem, but also in His second coming, as \_\_\_\_\_.

Long before the manger in Bethlehem, the people of God watched and waited in darkness, longing for \_\_\_\_\_, and listening to the voices of prophets who spoke of a coming Messiah, a great \_\_\_\_\_ that would pierce the night.

Advent invites us into that same waiting: \_\_\_\_\_ about the shadows in our world and in ourselves, yet full of \_\_\_\_\_ that God has not forgotten His promises.

In a world that often feels shadowed by fear and \_\_\_\_\_, Advent reminds us that the dawn of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ light is already breaking through, and it will not be \_\_\_\_\_.

This cry, Isaiah’s ancient plea, captures the heart of Advent: a people waiting in the dark, desperate for God to act, aching for deliverance, yet clinging to \_\_\_\_\_.

Advent reminds us that God does some of His deepest work in the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **3 TRUTHS ABOUT HAVING HOPE IN THE DARKNESS**

**Truth #1: Hope** \_\_\_\_\_.

“Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!....” (Isaiah 64: 1)

Isaiah’s cry comes from the shadows of \_\_\_\_\_, a time when God’s people felt abandoned, scattered, and \_\_\_\_\_.

It’s not a polite, carefully composed prayer, but a raw cry of \_\_\_\_\_, a plea for God to tear open the sky, step down into the darkness of this world, and \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of His people.

Isaiah gives us permission to pray that prayer, to name our longing, to be honest about the \_\_\_\_\_, and yet, to \_\_\_\_\_ that longing in hope.

Notice that Isaiah doesn’t just cry out to God, he also \_\_\_\_\_ who God is,

and recalls God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

“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.” (Isaiah 64:4)

This is Advent in a sentence: God \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of those who \_\_\_\_\_ for Him. Even when the heavens feel \_\_\_\_\_ and we can’t feel His presence, God is not absent. Even when the \_\_\_\_\_ are slow, God’s \_\_\_\_\_ are sure.

That’s what Advent hope does: It remembers what God has done in the past, and it clings to that as the \_\_\_\_\_ of what He will do again.

“Yet, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter.” (Isaiah 64:8)

Even in exile and while under divine judgment, Isaiah calls God Father. Even when the people feel broken, he still believes they are in His \_\_\_\_\_. That’s faith. Not denial of pain, but confidence in \_\_\_\_\_.

And here’s the comfort: God doesn’t discard the clay, He \_\_\_\_\_ it. God uses our \_\_\_\_\_—the pressure of the wheel, and the fire of the kiln—to make something \_\_\_\_\_ and beautiful.

Advent reminds us that even when heaven seems quiet, God is still at work, forming \_\_\_\_\_ in us.

In the light of prosperity, comfort, or ease we may \_\_\_\_\_ Him, however, in the night of sorrow and the darkness of suffering, His \_\_\_\_\_ shines. Hope isn’t the absence of darkness, it’s the ability to see God’s \_\_\_\_\_ in the darkness.

Ours is a faith that \_\_\_\_\_, and Isaiah teaches us how to pray in the dark: Remember God’s past faithfulness. Acknowledge present \_\_\_\_\_. Rest in His \_\_\_\_\_ hands.

When we pray this way, we’re doing more than just \_\_\_\_\_ the night, we’re bearing witness that God is still God, even when He seems silent.

**Truth #2: Hope** \_\_\_\_\_.

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory... Therefore keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come.” (Mark 13:24–26, 35)

Jesus paints a very sobering picture here of cosmic \_\_\_\_\_: darkened skies, falling stars, trembling heavens.

They're \_\_\_\_\_, yes, but they're also deeply \_\_\_\_\_ because Jesus isn't trying to frighten His followers, but rather \_\_\_\_\_ them.

That's the \_\_\_\_\_ of Advent. And between Bethlehem and the New Jerusalem, the people of God live in a world that still \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus is saying that the faithful eye can \_\_\_\_\_ the seasons of God's work. Just as a gardener knows spring is coming by the first shoots of green, the believer learns to read the signs of \_\_\_\_\_ even in a dark world.

That's the \_\_\_\_\_ of Advent: eyes \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ awake. We don't know the day or hour that Christ will come, but we live expectantly, knowing the Light will not \_\_\_\_\_ forever.

Jesus' words here are also a call to watchfulness as \_\_\_\_\_.

"Keep awake" isn't about being \_\_\_\_\_, restless, or pushing through; it's about staying \_\_\_\_\_. It's about living as if Christ might return today, but still planting seeds as if He might not for a thousand years. It's about letting our daily \_\_\_\_\_ become an act of readiness.

Every act of kindness, every word of truth, every prayer whispered in faith, are the \_\_\_\_\_ we keep trimmed and burning as we watch and wait.

Despite what the world tells us, Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, isn't a season of frantic activity, it's a call to holy \_\_\_\_\_. We're not meant to panic in the dark, but to actively \_\_\_\_\_ for the dawn.

We're not makers of the light, we're \_\_\_\_\_ of it. We stay awake: watchful, faithful, and hopeful, even when the world sleeps or scoffs. And when the light comes, whether in the quiet workings of \_\_\_\_\_ today or in the final coming of Christ in glory, it finds us waiting, watching, and ready.

The darkening of the sky doesn't mean the light is gone, it means it's actually about to \_\_\_\_\_. When the night is at its deepest, dawn is \_\_\_\_\_. And that's when the Church shines most brightly.

That's how we \_\_\_\_\_ God in dark times: by believing that the Light of the world still rules, still \_\_\_\_\_, and still returns.

When Jesus says, "Keep awake," He doesn't mean be anxious or restless. He means be faithful: Keep \_\_\_\_\_. Keep serving. Keep loving. Keep the lamps of your heart trimmed with the oil of \_\_\_\_\_. The world might scoff, but the watchful soul will see what others miss: the first rays of dawn on the horizon of God's \_\_\_\_\_.

**Truth #3: Hope \_\_\_\_\_.**  
"Keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come...in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn." (Mark 13:35)

We live in a world of \_\_\_\_\_ answers, immediate updates, and same-day delivery, and so, one of the hardest things for us to do is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Advent calls us back to that ancient, sacred \_\_\_\_\_ of waiting. Not idle, \_\_\_\_\_, or frustrated waiting: like waiting in the Tim Horton's drive through, waiting to get a doctor's appointment, or waiting for your child to put their shoes on. But \_\_\_\_\_ waiting. Not waiting with arms crossed, but with hearts \_\_\_\_\_ and hands ready.

This means living with \_\_\_\_\_, not anxiety. It means doing the next right thing, trusting that \_\_\_\_\_ in the ordinary, and in the dark, still glorifies the God who sees in \_\_\_\_\_.

The dawn doesn't break with fanfare, but rather creeps in \_\_\_\_\_, minute by minute, until suddenly everything is bathed in light.

We may be waiting for some great deliverance or miracle, but most of the time, God's light grows \_\_\_\_\_, through daily obedience, small acts of faith, and quiet \_\_\_\_\_.

We still walk through the \_\_\_\_\_: grief, loss, uncertainty, and delay, but there's a line of gold on the horizon. The Light is coming. And the waiting, watching, and obedience all becomes \_\_\_\_\_ because it declares to a dark world that the night will not \_\_\_\_\_ forever.

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Advent rests on that unshakeable truth: God's \_\_\_\_\_ are more dependable than our \_\_\_\_\_. The heart of our hope and the promise of light leads us to the \_\_\_\_\_ who is Light: Jesus the Messiah. Advent starts in the dark so that we can see the brilliance of the One who comes to \_\_\_\_\_ it.

Advent hope isn't wishful thinking, its \_\_\_\_\_ waiting, that even when we don't see the light, God is \_\_\_\_\_ in the dark, and is faithful to keep His \_\_\_\_\_. He always has. He always does. And, He always will!