Advent Sunday ~ Sunday, November 29, 2026
"The King is Coming ~ Watching for the King"
Psalm 98 // Isaiah 2:1-5 // Matthew 24:36-44

During Advent, we look back with_____to Christ's first coming in humility as the Babe in Bethlehem, and we look forward with_____to His promised return in power and great glory.

It's a time to reflect not only on the wonder and joy of Christmas, but also on what it means to live_____as we await the coming of our King.

As Christians, we live between the_____of one great promise–that God would send His Son into the world–and the anticipated fulfilment of another–that Jesus Christ will_____again. The question before us this morning isn't simply whether we believe that Christ will return, but whether we're_____ as people who truly expect Him to come.

3 REASONS WE WATCH FOR THE RETURN OF THE KING

#1. We watch because_____.
"In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it." (Isaiah 2:2)

Isaiah goes on to describe a day when people from many nations will come to the Lord, seeking His wisdom and instruction, and desiring to walk in His ways. Rather than asserting their own_____and pursuing their own interests, they'll _____themselves to the authority of God.

"They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:4)

Instruments of destruction will become instruments of cultivation, hostility will give way to_____, and conflict will give way to peace. Notice, however, that this peace isn't the result of human ingenuity, political negotiations, or military strength. It's the result of the_____reign of God.

He's pointing us towards the_____of God's purposes for His creation–purposes that find their fulfilment in_____.

At His first coming, Jesus_____the Kingdom of God, and through His death and resurrection, He secured the victory over sin and death. And although we already experience the_____of His Kingdom, we're still awaiting for the day when His reign will be_____revealed, when all things will be made new, and when the brokenness of this world will finally be overcome.

That's why Christian watchfulness begins not with_____about the future, but with_____in the promises of God.

We live in a world marked by increasing conflict, division, suffering, and uncertainty, and sometimes, as we look at what's happening around us, it's easy to become_____or even to wonder whether things will ever get better. However, as Christians, we have a_____that extends far beyond the circumstances of the present.

"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18)

We know that the brokenness we see around us isn't the final chapter of the story. Our hope is not that the_____will somehow put itself right, but that the King who came to save the world will one day return to make all things_____.

This doesn't mean that we're_____to the suffering of others or that we shouldn't work towards peace, justice, and reconciliation in our world today. Rather, we do so knowing that our ultimate hope rests not in_____ achievement, but in the_____of God.

Have we become so preoccupied with what's happening in our own lives or in the world that we've lost sight of what God has promised to do?

Advent invites us to lift our eyes beyond our present_____and to remember that the same God who faithfully fulfilled His promise to send His Son into the world will_____fulfil His promise that His Son will come again.

We can face the uncertainties of today with_____because the future is in the hands of our King.

#2. We watch because_____.
Jesus makes it abundantly clear that although His return is_____, the _____hasn't been revealed to us.

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matthew 24:36)

His concern isn't that we should be able to_____His return, but that we

should be_____for it.

"For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man." (Matthew 24:38-39)

The problem was that they were so_____in the affairs of everyday life that they were_____to the seriousness of their spiritual condition and the judgment that was approaching.

One of the greatest dangers to our spiritual lives isn't a deliberate rejection of God, but rather a gradual loss of spiritual_____. We can become so occupied with the_____demands and responsibilities of everyday life that we begin to lose sight of_____realities.

The danger isn't always that we stop believing Christ will return, but that we begin living as though He_____ will.

"Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." **(Matthew 24:42)**

Jesus is calling us to spiritual_____–to remain conscious of His presence, attentive to His_____, and mindful of the eternal significance of our lives.

His warning is a solemn reminder that_____won't simply continue indefinitely as it always has. There will come a day when Christ returns in glory to judge the living and the dead,

Jesus' intention in warning us isn't to have us live in a constant state of fear or _____. Rather, in His love for us, He calls us to remain spiritually awake so that His coming will be an occasion of_____rather than regret.

Are we giving our relationship with Christ the attention it deserves? Are we making time to be still in His presence, to listen to His Word, and to reflect upon the things of eternal significance? Or have we allowed the busyness and distractions of everyday life to gradually crowd Him out?

Advent is an invitation to awaken from our spiritual_____and to recover a conscious awareness that our King is coming. We don't know when He'll return, but we do know that He will. And that certainty, together with the unexpected nature of His return, ought to shape the way we_____each day.

#3. We watch by_____.

"Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." (Matthew 24:44)

Jesus isn't suggesting that we should_____from the world, abandon our everyday responsibilities, or spend our days looking towards heaven in anticipation of His return. Rather, He's calling us to live_____in the circumstances in which God has placed us.

"O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!" (Isaiah 2:5)

Notice the connection between God's promised future and the way His people are called to live in the present. Having given them a_____of what will one day be, Isaiah invites them to begin living in light of that reality–_____.

As followers of Jesus, we're called to reflect the values and character of His _____even as we await its_____.

What makes this servant faithful isn't that he spends his days watching for his master's return, but that he continues to_____the responsibilities his master has entrusted to him.

"Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives." (Matthew 24:46)

This is wonderful picture of what Christian_____looks like. The servant's readiness is demonstrated through_____.

Our faithfulness isn't the means by which we_____His grace, but the response of_____hearts to the grace we've already received. Advent provides us with an opportunity to renew our_____to living as disciples of Jesus.

The knowledge that our King is coming gives a renewed sense of_____and _____to the way we live today. To watch for Christ isn't simply to look toward heaven, but to live_____on earth until He comes.

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Am I living in such a way that I'm ready to welcome Him when He comes?

The King who came in humility will one day return in glory. Until that day, may we be found_____with expectation, living with_____, and walking in the_____of the Lord.