Come Let Us Adore



THE MEANING OF "ADVENT"

The word Advent is Latin for "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Christ, in His First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ, the King, in His Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ, whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture readings for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the first and second coming of Christ, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment of sin, and the hope of eternal life.

THE SPIRIT OF ADVENT

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, and of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance! It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth, justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation. It is that hope that was once anticipated, and is now anticipated anew, the reign of an Anointed One, a Messiah, who will bring hope, peace, joy, and love to the world.

SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH & CANDLES

The circle of the wreath reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent.

The light of the candles itself becomes an important symbol of the season. The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others (Isa 42:6).



The First Candle

Purple

This is traditionally the candle of ***Hope***. This draws attention to the anticipation of the coming of an Anointed One, a Messiah, which weaves its way like a golden thread through Old Testament history.



The Second Candle

Purple

This candle represents the ***Peace*** that we now have because of this Messiah. Not only does He bring us the supernatural peace of the Holy Spirit in difficult circumstances, He has more importantly brought us peace with God.



The Third Candle

Pink

This symbolizes ***Joy*** at the soon Advent of the Christ. It marks a shift from the more solemn tone of the first two Sundays to a more joyous atmosphere of anticipation and expectancy.



The Fourth Candle

Purple

It represents ***Love*** and ties all the themes together, because without love, it all means nothing. Jesus is love. God sent His Son into the world because He loved it! We are now called to love God in return and love other people as ourselves.



The Fifth Candle

White

The center candle and is called the ***Christ*** candle. Traditionally it is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The central location of the Christ candle reminds us that the incarnation is the heart of the season, giving light to the world.

SCRIPTURE READING FOR ADVENT

1st Week

SUN	Rom. 13:11-14
MON	1 Cor. 1:3-9
TUES	Mark 13:33-37
WED	John 1:1-5
THURS	John 1:6-9
FRI	Jer. 33:14-16
SAT	Isaiah 60:19-22

2nd Week

SUN	Rom. 15:4-13
MON	Psalms 43:3-6
TUES	Psalms 27:1-4
WED	Ps. 119:105-106
THURS	John 12:35-36
FRI	John 9:1-7
SAT	Luke 3:1-6

3rd Week

SUN	Isaiah 60:1-3
MON	2 Cor. 4:3-6
TUES	1 John 1:4-7
WED	John 3:16-21
THURS	Isaiah 40:1-11
FRI	John 1:1-7
SAT	Luke 3:1-6

4th Week

SUN	Isaiah 11:1-10
MON	Zeph. 3:13-17
TUES	Matt. 1:18-25
WED	Luke 2:8-20
THURS	Matt. 4:14-16
FRI	Isaiah 2:1-5
SAT	Luke 2:25-33