

Advent

The Time Has Come.....



- God of promise and hope,
- Grace us with a spirit of calm,
- Empty us of what does not nourish,
- Hold us in your gentle love,
- In Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Time To Reflect

- Advent Stillness before Christmas Advent is a season that looks back and looks forward at the same time. We look back to the birth of Jesus in simplicity over 2000 years ago. We also look forward with hope to the fullness of the kingdom of God when Jesus comes in tenderness and love to meet us face to face.
- Advent is a season of waiting, of patience and of attentiveness. We wait in a spirit of calm expectation, with our eyes wide open in gentle attentiveness, for the unfolding of the gifts that Jesus has prepared for us.
- A Christmas song tells children 'you better watch out'. In the Gospel of Mark, for the first Sunday of Advent, Jesus challenges us to 'stay awake'. These two phrases have something in common – being alert and being attentive.
- In Advent when we make time for gentle prayer we begin to notice anew the presence of Jesus in so many different ways. We appreciate the gifts that we have been given – the people with whom we live and work especially our families. Quiet thoughtfulness makes us more aware of others needs.
- In the silence of Advent we are inspired to reach out, like Jesus, to those who find it hard to survive, those who are left out by others and those in need of healing words and touch. In the stillness of Advent we learn to be active in proclaiming the kingdom of God and in spreading the good news of the Gospel.
- We are mindful too of the words 'Preach the Gospel always, and if necessary also with words.' (Francis of Assisi) May this Advent be a time for celebrating the joy of love in our families. May this Advent be a time for making the paths of our relationships more smooth. May this Advent be a time of peace and moderation as we look forward with hope.

A close-up photograph of a festive advent scene. In the center, a lit red candle with a bright yellow flame sits on a bed of dry twigs. To the left and right of the candle are several shiny purple spherical ornaments and pinecones. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the same festive elements. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

Stories of Advent

Getting Ready...



‘Help us to prepare for the coming of Christ your Son. May he find us waiting, eager and in joyful prayer.’

‘Jesus said to them, ‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’ They said to him, ‘Yes Lord.’

Then he touched their eyes and said, ‘According to your faith let it be done to you.’

And then their eyes were opened.

(Matt 9:27-31)



Time to Reflect

Today's Advent Challenge

- 'Is there someone in your life that you can give a second chance to? Have courage.

We conclude as we say together

- 'Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus Come



Advent is a time of waiting, longing and openness. Our scripture reading and traditions point to this. As we become familiar with the readings of Advent, we are reminded that God's people are the people who live in hope. Advent is a time to examine our relationship with God. We see how God revealed himself in the world.

