



A SIX-WEEK SERIES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Every year, Advent returns to us with a message of what was, what is, and what is to come. The advent wreath reminds us of the growing light pressing against the increasing darkness of the season. As we gather, we are reminded that Christ meets us in this space and place, and draws us into the time when he will come again. This risen Christ is with us, and presses into our darkness with light and life.

November 27: Power in Our Weakness

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19; MARK 13:24-37

The psalmist cries out, “Stir up your might, and come and save us.” The Gospel lesson declares that a day will come when Jesus comes to us in great power and glory. We often feel powerless and weak when faced with the profound suffering all around us. These texts remind us that Jesus will come, has come, and will come again to end all suffering and set everything to right, and until that day we are called to be about the work of the Kingdom every day.

December 4: Miracle in our Messiness

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13; MARK 1:1-8

Advent is a season of preparation and expectation. John the Baptist appears on the scene and calls everyone to clean house, repent, get ready, reorder everything, and eliminate anything that would stand in the way of the coming Messiah. We need to listen to these voices that declare the miracle of God coming among us in human flesh. Much of the messiness of our culture stands in stark contrast to the plans and purposes of God. We are called to Kingdom living, which expects the miracles of God to occur every day.

December 11: Light in our Darkness

PSALM 126; JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

In the middle of the shortest and darkest days of the year, the metaphor of light has extraordinary power. Jesus is declared to be the “light of the world,” and John’s Gospel calls us to not only witness Jesus as the light, but to testify to its good news for everyone. In this season of expectation, we can trust the promise of God to shine light into every darkened corner of our world through the one who is the light in our darkness.

December 18: Promise in our Impossibilities

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26; LUKE 1:26-38

Luke's Gospel declares "nothing is impossible with God." The angel Gabriel announces the good news to Mary that she will be the mother of the Son of God, and that her cousin Elizabeth will bear a child in her old age. In one brief announcement, Mary is faced with what might seem impossible, but she believes the promise and says, "let it be with me according to your word." In our lives, we are often faced with impossible circumstances. We are called to believe in the promises of God and step into each day with faith and hope.

December 24: God in our Flesh (Christmas Eve)**Saturday at 5pm - No Sunday Worship**

HEBREWS 1:1-4; JOHN 1:1-14

Both of these texts declare the truth that God has come to us in human flesh in the One named Jesus Christ. This Jesus was present and active at the beginning of all things and continues to be present and active in the work of the Kingdom of God among us. God continues to speak to us through the Son who "reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power."

January. 1: Hope in our Future (New Year's Day)

ISAIAH 61:10 – 62:3; LUKE 2:22-40

The prophet boldly declares the bright future of what Jerusalem will become to the world. Simeon and Anna look into the eyes of the One who was promised to the world and declare that they have seen the salvation of God. We are called to believe and act as if God is already in our future, and that is the hope we cling to.
