

Advent

Greeting: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with your Spirit



ADVENT:
A TIME OF
PREPARATION
AND WAITING

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
As we begin this season of Advent, we look forward to your coming. We do not know when this will be. Help us to prepare by always making sure that we do the right thing.
Amen

Lectionaries and Cloths

We are finishing cycle A of the Gospel readings, moving on to cycle B. The readings also change from Matthew's Gospel to Mark's Gospel.

We are moving from ordinary time to Advent, so cloths and vestments move from green to purple.

GOSPEL: STAY AWAKE

Gospel reading
taken from Mark
13:33-37

Jesus promised us that one day he would return. In this gospel story Jesus is telling us that we must be ready when he comes again, but that we cannot be exactly sure when that will be.

As we don't know when he is coming, we must try to be ready all the time. Although we don't have to stay awake all night, we can go to sleep!

Advent is a time when we especially think about getting ready to welcome Jesus, when we remember his birth at Christmas and when he comes again in glory.

In the gospel, Jesus asks us to look out and keep our eyes open for what is happening around us, so that we are ready when he comes.

How Is Advent Celebrated?

Advent traditionally begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. In churches, an advent wreath is lit. There are five candles, four on the wreath and one in the middle. On the first Sunday, one candle is lit and on the second Sunday, two candles are lit. This carries on until on Christmas Day, all five candles are lit.



First Sunday Of Advent



On the first Sunday, a purple candle (the candle of HOPE) is lit. This is the Prophet candle, reminding us that Jesus is coming and giving us hope of the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Prayer

Dear Living God, help us to listen to your word, to be kind and generous and helpful to others and to be ready to welcome Jesus when he comes.

Amen.

