

The First & Last Advent

*Welcome to our
Christmas Eve Service.*

“Christ Our Hope”

Advent #5
“Christ Our Hope”

Advent #2
“Christ Our Joy”

Advent #1
“Christ Our King”

Advent #4
“Christ Our Peace”

Advent #3
“Christ Our Love”

Call to Worship from Luke 2 and Matthew 2

An ancient invitation into this sacred and powerful gathering

LEADER

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

ALL

“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

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Call to Worship from Luke 2 and Matthew 2

An ancient invitation into this sacred and powerful gathering

LEADER

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.

ALL

Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

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Advent #1

Christ Our King

We were ushered into the Heavenly Throne Room
to see Christ our King reigning with Grace and Power.

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Advent #1

Christ Our King

Isaiah 9

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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Advent #1

Christ Our King

Luke 1:28b-33

“Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Advent #2

Christ Our Joy

Jesus was born as a Joy-Maker,
turning our mourning into dancing.

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Advent #2

Christ Our Joy

Isaiah 52

⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

Advent #2

Christ Our Joy

Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹

And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Advent #3

Christ Our Love

Our deepest longing and continual pursuit is to love and be loved.

Jesus has pursued us and brought us to himself,
throwing a Heavenly Marriage Feast to celebrate.

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Advent #3

Christ Our Love

Isaiah 40

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

Advent #3

Christ Our Love

Matthew 2

⁹ After listening to the king, (the Magi) went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Advent #3

Christ Our Love

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

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Advent #4

Christ Our Peace

God has sent his Son as the Prince of Peace so that all division and conflict could be defeated, and replaced with unity and peace.

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Advent #4

Christ Our Peace

Isaiah 11

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

Advent #4

Christ Our Peace

Luke 2

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

The WithNess of God

Matthew 1:23

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”
(which means, God with us).

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Made for WithNess

Genesis 3

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...

With God
With Ourselves
With One Another



Norman Rockwell



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Broken WithNess

Genesis 3

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”





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I don't belong anywhere.

It's the
MOST
Wonderful
time of the
YEAR

The
First

It's the
MOST

~~Wonderful~~

Lonely

time of the
YEAR

The
First

It's the
MOST
~~Wonderful~~
Lonely
time of the
YEAR

We are the most
connected people
in history,
and the loneliest

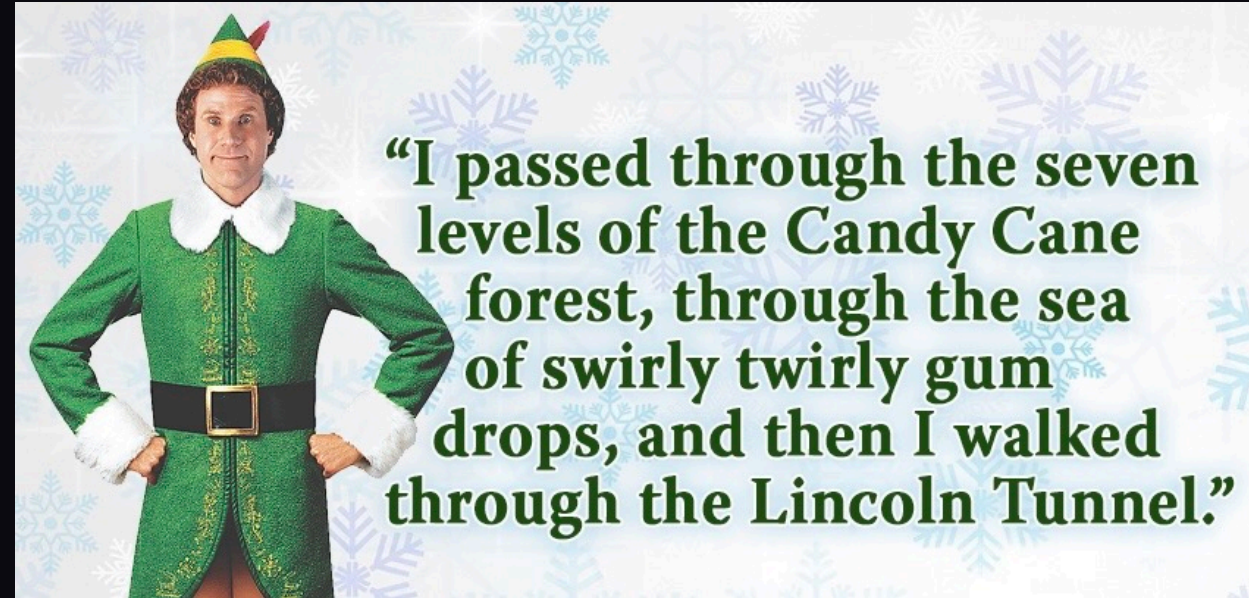
It's the
MOST
~~Wonderful~~
Lonely
time of the
YEAR

Ephesians 2:12
...Remember that
you were at that
time separated
from Christ,

Pursued WithNess

Matthew 1:18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."



Lost Sheep
Lost Coin
Lost Son

Received With Ness

*I really like my family, even
through sometimes I say I don't*

*Family is a complicated thing.
You forget that you love them.*

Luke 19:10
For the Son of Man
came to seek and to
save the lost.

God has come to win you back and bring you home.

Perpetual WithNess

Matthew 1:18

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Matthew 28:20b

“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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Advent #5

Christ Our Hope

Our fifth and final candle of the Advent wreath is the Christ Our Hope Candle - Tonight we finish by reminding one another of the vast, glorious and sure Hope that we find in Christ. We are between two advents where he has come as a newborn King and has fully assured us of the Hope that he will come again and make all things new.

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Advent #5

Christ Our Hope

Jeremiah 33:14-16

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

Advent #5

Christ Our Hope

Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).



Benediction

Matthew 28:20b

“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Revelation 22

20b “Surely I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Merry Christmas!

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