

DECEMBER 2, 2018  
FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*We wait for Jesus with faith and hope.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 21:25-36</b>	<b>The coming of the Son of Man</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 33:14-16</b>	<b>The Lord's wonderful promise</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Thessalonians 3:9-13</b>	<b>Paul's words of thanks</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Nehemiah 9:6-15</b>	<b>God's faithful goodness</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Revelation 22:12-16</b>	<b>Jesus is coming soon</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Malachi 3:5-12</b>	<b>Return to God</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 25:1-10</b>	<b>A prayer for help</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 3:1-6</b>	<b>Prepare the way of the Lord</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. **Psalm 25:5 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In you I place my trust, O God, and wait for you all day long. Amen. (Psalm 25:1-2, 5)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, bless us with hope and faithfulness as we prepare for your coming. We give thanks for the gift of food that strengthens us as we wait. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13)



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Wake, Awake,  
for Night Is Flying*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What do you hope for during this Season of Advent?
- What does the advertising industry want you to hope for? How is this different from our hope and faith in Jesus Christ?
- Jesus says that when scary times happen, stand tall because God's saving work is near (Luke 21:28, 36). Tell or think about a time you were scared and relied on God's presence.

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Jeremiah 33:14-16.

Waiting is not easy, especially for those who are impatient types. Whether it is described as waiting for the "righteous branch to spring up for David" (v. 15), or Christ's return as the "Son of Man coming in a cloud" (Luke 21:27), the people of God have been a waiting people. What makes the waiting bearable—even joyous—is that the waiting is joined by God's powerful word filled with glory: "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made" (v. 14). Salvation and security are the work of the one who is known by this name: "The LORD is our righteousness." The church, the body of Christ, is given confidence to wait and to endure difficult times. We are strengthened by God's word to be alert, to pray, and to stand boldly (Luke 21:36). What do you wait for boldly with confidence and joy?

*Pray:* The Lord's Prayer.

### SERVICE

While making your own Advent wreath, purchase an extra wreath frame and candles for a friend, neighbor, or someone in your family to use during Advent. Take time to visit with them and light the first candle using the words found below. Make a plan to visit this person each week as you prepare for the coming of Christ.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The Advent Wreath is a common Advent home tradition. Make or purchase a round wreath frame and decorate with greens, ribbons, or other materials. Place a white candle in the center and four blue candles around it. Light one blue candle this first week, the candle of expectation and hope. Read the following after lighting your first Advent candle:

**Leader:** **The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 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. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."** (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

**All:** **Lord, thank you for your promise to us filled with expectation and hope. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)