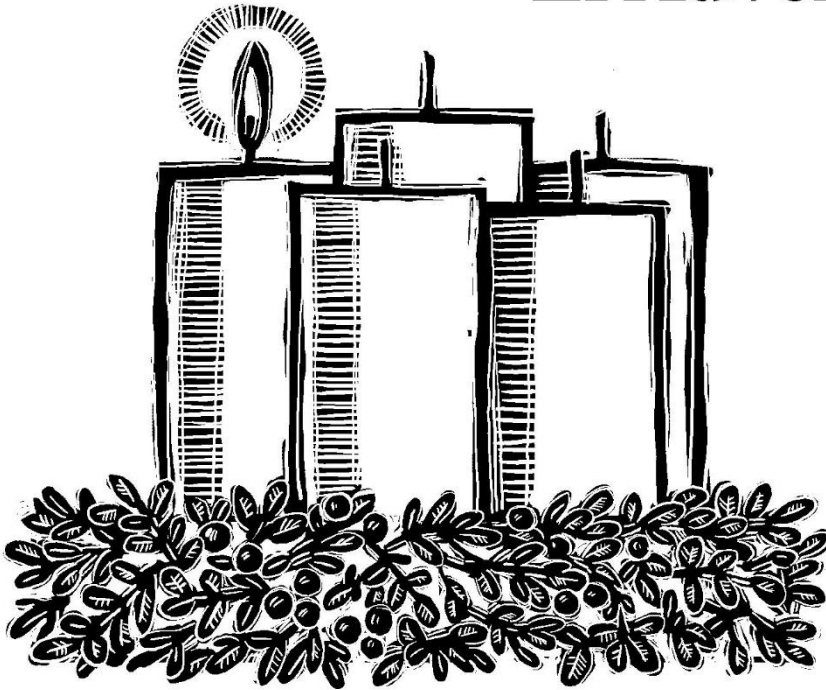


# First Sunday in Advent



*"Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ's love."*

17 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**November 29, 2020**

## First Sunday of Advent

**Prayer Before Worship:** Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

*(In preparation for our worship together, you are invited to take a moment of silence to offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)*

**KEY:** ELW = Worship hymnal (cranberry)

Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

**A Warm Welcome** to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

***Visitors,** if you are worshipping with us today,  
we are glad to have you with us.*

### Prelude Music

### Welcome and Announcements

### **‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡**

### Candle Lighting Litany

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

**As we light the first Advent candle, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.**

May this candle be a sign of the coming light of Christ.

*(One candle is lit.)*

O house of Jacob, come,  
**Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

Someone’s shouting from the desert. Someone’s shouting from the sea.  
Someone’s shouting from the mountain. Someone’s shouting from the valley.

*Chorus: Messiah, Come and be our King. (repeat)*

**\*Confession of Sins/Assurance of Forgiveness**

*(All may make the sign of the cross † the sign marked at baptism, as we begin)*

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God’s endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God’s love, † comforted by Christ’s peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**\*Greeting**

Christ comes to lighten our darkness.

**Come, Lord, Jesus.**

May the light of God’s glory be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## ‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence —  
<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned up on the cherubim.  
<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**  
<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**  
<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call up on your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

### **Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation:**

**“Love Has Come”**

**ELW #292**

**vv. 3**

**Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

**\*Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds,

from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup>From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

*Response after the gospel reading:*  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Sheryl**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡**

**\*Hymn:**

**"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

**ELW #257  
vv. 1&7**

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

*Refrain*

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**7. O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new.**

*Refrain*

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**\*Profession of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Prayers of the Church:**

*Each petition ends with:*

Come, Lord Jesus...**hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with:*

Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*Exchange of Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.

**God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,  
and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those  
in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## ‡HOLY COMMUNION & DISMISSAL‡

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **Words of Institution**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever, and ever. Amen.**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat, and drink.

#### **Distribution of Communion:**

*For those interested in receiving Holy Communion, please meet the communion servers  
in the parking lot for Drive-Through Communion immediately following the worship  
service this morning from approximately 10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.*

**"Emmanuel, God With Us"**

**Choir**

#### **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

#### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**



## ‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

### \*Benediction

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ‡ now and forever. **Amen.**

### \*Hymn:

**“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”**

**ELW #244  
vv. 1&4**

**1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.**

**4. Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!**

### \*Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

*Copyright Permissions: Liturgy:* From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103411.

*Music: Love Has Come:* CCLI Song # 2060820 Ken Bible © 1996, 1997 LNWhymns.com (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) *For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #1825044; O Come, O Come, Emmanuel:* Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress CCLI License #1825044; **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers:**Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907 ©Public Domain

## YOUR GIVING ONLINE

**GIVE+**Mobile

Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website: [www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org) and click on the **Give Online** button OR download the **Give+Church App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



**H A P P Y**  
**B I R T H D A Y**

Donna Hessler, 11/30; Tammy Lutz, 12/2

*If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.*

## †In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Bill Steele** (COVID-19 recovery), **Ardella Miller** (COVID-19 recovery—Lonnie Miller's mother), **Greg & Judy Hinze** (COVID-19 recovery—Grant Hinze's Parents), **Harlan Meyer** (Lonnie Miller's Uncle), **Shelia Colson** (hospitalized—mother-in-law of Nannie Walsh's sister), **Claudia** (bedrest for pregnancy), **Amber** (fighting COVID-19), **Myron Loseke**, **Jerry Weekes** (recovering from a horse accident), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Alan** (recovery of vision—Kathy Randall's cousin), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Michael Dietrich** (friend of Dave & Penny Stevens), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Barb** (cancer—Marlene Downer's sister-in-law), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **Dorothy High**, **Linda Halley** (sister-in-law of Kent & Pam Halley), **Wilma Buchhammer** (mother of Mark Buchhammer), **Dorothy Kraft** (Trisha Foote's mom),

Prayers for our church, community, nation, and world: *in this time of Covid-19 and general unsettledness. For everyone in need!*

## Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, during the week you may notify Christy in the church office, let us know by filling out the online Attendance and Prayer Request card under the worship tab on our website or on Sunday morning, inform one of the ushers of your prayer request and they will make a list and give those to the pastor before worship begins.



## DECEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** packaged cookies

**BACKPACKS:** applesauce

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



## **WOMEN OF THE ELCA DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT:**

Our mission project for December is our **Angel Tree**. We are encouraging people to participate in the Angle Tree project by taking a name & purchasing gifts or making monetary donations to help make sure gifts are purchased for all the names on the Angel Tree. See Tidings for more detailed information.



### **Items always needed for the kitchen:**

SOS pads, scratchies, dish rags, comet, dish soap, paper towels, foil, saran wrap, zip lock baggies (quart & gallon), napkins, instant Country Time lemonade, creamer, artificial sweetener.  
Items may be left in the kitchen.

## BELL RINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Volunteers are needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Safeway on **Saturday, December 12th from 9 am through 7 pm**. Masks are required. If you are willing to volunteer, please stop or call the church office to sign up.



Please watch every week for an email with the kid's sermon by Angie with fun activities for the kids to stay involved!

Due to COVID-19 concerns JAM has been suspended until further notice.

A banner for ELCA Good Gifts. It features the ELCA logo and the text "ELCA GOOD GIFTS". Below this, the phrase "How it works" is written in a cursive font. The process is outlined in three steps: 1. Choose your gift (with a pig icon), 2. Get a card (with a card icon), and 3. Change lives (with a globe icon).

Give an unexpected gift this Christmas. Gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Meaningful gifts for everyone on your list. See the bulletin board next to the Fellowship Hall or visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> for your gift options.



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.



**Lutheran Disaster Response**

Wildfires in the West. Hurricanes in the South. Tornadoes in the Midwest. Covid-19. Throughout our nation and around the world, disaster strikes with alarming frequency and sometimes it can feel as if we are helpless in the face of it all. But whenever and wherever disaster strikes, you are there through the work of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), not only in the immediate aftermath but also long after the disaster has faded from the headlines. Your donations to the work of LDR are critical in allowing LDR to make a difference when disaster strikes. If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response either by going to: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response> or by making a donation to Calvary specifically earmarked for Lutheran Disaster Response or if you wish you can even be more specific by writing 'wildfires', 'hurricanes', etc. in your memo line. And remember, 100% of what you donate will go for disaster response!



*Connecting faith & finances for good.™*

**Thrivent Financial**

Are you a Thrivent member? And if you are, do you know that as a Thrivent member (depending on what investments or products you have with Thrivent) you might have Thrivent Choice dollars that you can designate to a non-profit ministry of your choice including Calvary Lutheran and hundreds of other ministries every year? And that you also have at least \$250 dollars (and possibly \$500) per year that you can choose to kickstart a Thrivent Action Project that can make a difference in our church or community.

For example, this fall a member of Calvary used their \$250 to purchase the backpacks and some of the supplies that were used to fill the School Backpacks for Lutheran World Relief. To direct your Thrivent Choice dollars, start a Thrivent Action Project or simply to learn more go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/>, talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl or talk to your Thrivent agent.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer**

### **This Sunday – November 29**

**USHERS:** Vicki Howell & LaDonna Schmidt

**LAY READER:** Mary Jo Huelle

**COMMUNION ASST:** Bill Huelle

**POWERPOINT:** Jack Martin

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

**ALTAR GUILD:** Abby Newsom, Maunette  
Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie  
Walsh

**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

**SONG LEADER:** Chris Thomas

### **Next Sunday – December 6**

**USHERS:** Chris & Barb Jensen

**LAY READER:** Angie Hinze

**COMMUNION ASST:** Dennis Gorr

**POWERPOINT:** Shawna Payne

**MEDIA:** Colter Burkey

**ALTAR GUILD:** Deb Brown, Vicki Howell,  
Tracy Steele

**PIANIST:** Dee Brady

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Sunday, November 29**

10 a.m. – Worship

10:45-11:15 a.m. – Drive Through  
Communion

### **Tuesday, December 1**

8:30 a.m. – Men's Study @ Calvary's  
Fellowship Hall & on Zoom

1 p.m. – Quilting

7 p.m. – Pastor's Bible Study

7:30 p.m. – Confirmation on Zoom

### **Wednesday, December 2**

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

### **Sunday, December 6**

10 a.m. – Worship

10:45-11:15 a.m. – Drive Through  
Communion

NOVEMBER 29, 2020  
FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*Stay awake, for God is coming with power.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	The day and hour unknown
Monday	Isaiah 64:1-9	A communal prayer for help
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	God is faithful
Wednesday	Revelation 22:12-21	Jesus is coming soon
Thursday	Micah 4:1-5	Peace and prosperity
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Children of light
Saturday	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Prayer for Israel's restoration
Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Mark 13:26 (NRSV)*

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Deliver us from harm, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine on us; that we may be saved through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 80:3, 7, and 19)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food; may it strengthen us that we may await your coming with power and glory through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May you be blessed with hope and peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.



© 2020 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website [calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

NOVEMBER 29, 2020  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Awake, Awake, and Greet  
the Morn*

**WEEKLY MILESTONES**

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- When have you had a challenging or scary experience?
- What are some dangerous or alarming situations we face in our world today?
- Sometimes it seems easier to deny the dangers we face and pretend they are not really a problem. How does faith in Jesus give us hope and help us to face scary times?

**DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* Mark 13:24-37.

Advent begins with an awareness of the frailty of life. We may come up with short-term fixes like finding shelter, warmth, and food. There is always the challenge of the unforeseen storm that can flood our lives with devastation, when the whole world seems to be falling down around us (vv. 24-25). No generation escapes these trials and sufferings (vv. 29-30). It happened to the people who returned from Babylonian captivity (Isaiah 64); it happened to the first Christians as noted by Mark in chapter 13; and, it happens all around the world today.

What we need is the God who promises to show up and be the difference-maker. This Advent we are reminded to be alert to this God who shows up in Jesus of Nazareth. In Jesus we have hope because we have the one in whom the truth of his words will never pass away, never end, never fail (v. 31), so life with gusto, with courage, with hope, and stay awake, keep alert, don't give up (vv. 33, 35, and 37). How does public worship, reading the Bible and prayer help you stay awake to Jesus' coming into our lives?

*Pray:* Almighty and living God, give us hope and confidence to await your coming into our lives with faith in your healing and renewing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SERVICE**

Advent is a time to recall the basic needs of life: a loving and gracious God and justice and mercy that all may have enough to live. In what ways can you "stay awake" this Advent season by caring for the needs of others and providing needed resources for the homeless?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

The church year begins on the first Sunday in Advent. This coming year, the Gospel readings will be from Mark. To launch the new church year, gather together all the Bibles in your home. If you have an Advent wreath, place the Bibles near the wreath. As you light the first candle, the candle of hope, use this prayer of blessing: *Almighty God, we thank you for the Bible, and especially for the good news about Jesus our Savior. Give us hope as we read, listen to, and think about what the Bible says to us in this new church year. Make us into people who are strong in our faith and full of love. 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)