

First Sunday of Advent Year A

Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*



Therefore, stay awake! ... So too, you also must be prepared.

Come,
Lord Jesus,
make us ready
for your kingdom.

Let us find you
in the crimson colored dusk,
in the crescent moon and flying geese,

Let us see you

in laughing children,
in our brothers and sisters
everywhere.

Make us

always awake, watching for you, prepared,
with our hearts open
wide.

Teach us how to “greet you
the days we meet you
and bless when we
understand.”

Quotation from “The Wreck of the Deutschland” by G.M. Hopkins

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 2:1-5



They will beat their swords into plowshares.

No
more war!
War never again!
Let us drop our weapons;
turn our missile cruisers into lifeboats.

We yearn to walk in your light, washed in your peace.
Let us rise from every village and city on earth,
and climb your holy mountain
together.

THE SECOND READING Romans 13:11-14

Let us throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Now
is the hour to
rise from our sleep
and take up the work of the day.

Jesus, be our light this day.
Throw darkness out. *(Annie Osdieck)*

Reflection -

The Holy Thief

It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.

To be “awake” as a Christian means, in the words of Isaiah, to “walk in the light of the Lord.” We become alert to the tiniest hints of the divine presence. The holy thief breaks into our lives quietly, the barely audible click of a door, the softest padding of feet. God steals into our lives in an unexpected stranger’s generosity, a smile that is pure gift. Be alert!

Then we shall dare to look with naked eyes at the threats that menace the survival of humanity: ecological catastrophe, war, even nuclear bombs. We will not dull our senses like those who ignored the coming Flood (Genesis 6–9), because we have glimpsed the one who comes.

We all may have met brothers and sisters who look death in the face and yet are joyful. God stealing in. Timothy Radcliffe, OP

The Season of Advent : Throughout this period of Advent – contrary to what the media would have us believe! – we prepare not just for Christmas festivities, gifts and good food, but for the coming of our Lord. ‘Advent’ means coming, and in fact we prepare for three comings:

- The coming of Jesus, Emmanuel; God made man, born weak and vulnerable in Bethlehem: *The First Coming*.
- The coming in glory of Jesus at the End of Time: *The Second Coming*.
- The coming of Jesus into our own hearts – where, with Mary, we welcome him and say YES to him.

We ourselves live in the period of history between the First and Second Coming. During Advent, we reflect on this. We watch and wait in hope, as we try to prepare a way for the Lord, and long for his coming to dispel our darkness.

Advent is also a time when we try to prepare ourselves personally for the Lord’s coming, as we look at our own lives and repent of the times when we have not let his light shine through us.

With a great feeling of expectancy and joy we can cry out in Aramaic, the language Jesus himself used: **‘Maranatha: Come, Lord Jesus!’** (*From St. Bueno’s Outreach Programme to the Wrexham Diocese*)

