

NOVEMBER 27, 2022  
FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*Jesus is coming to bring hope.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 24:36-44</b>	<b>The coming of the Son of Man</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 2:1-5</b>	<b>Peace that lasts forever</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 13:11-14</b>	<b>The day when Christ returns</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Isaiah 55:10-13</b>	<b>God's people will celebrate</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalms 147:1-11</b>	<b>Sing and praise the Lord</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Romans 12:9-13</b>	<b>Marks of the true Christian</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 122</b>	<b>A song of praise</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 3:1-12</b>	<b>Prepare the way of the Lord</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. Isaiah 2:3a (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Almighty God, in the power of your mystery and majesty, you do great things for us so that we may live with hope through Christ Jesus, the Son of Man. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, you who give food to the nations, we thank you for feeding us this day and for being with us now and always through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

May the God of peace bring you hope now and always.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*All Earth Is Hopeful*



### 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 something important is about to happen, how do you prepare for it?
- During the Advent season, how do you prepare for the coming of Jesus?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read: Matthew 24:36-44 .*

With Advent we begin a new church year. Last year our Gospel readings came from Luke. This year they will be from the Gospel of Matthew. This passage leads us to raise many questions, to take life and faith seriously, and to wonder. Who is in and who is out? Remembering that some people were living with the intimidation of Roman occupation in Galilee and Judea, we wonder on what basis is one person taken and another left. What does it mean to stay awake and be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man? Are the pleasures and responsibilities of daily life leading us to complacency? Are we not seeing the signs of the times? What the Gospel tells us is to be attentive and live a life that walks in the ways of the Lord. Jesus has come and is still coming into our lives so that we may know the good news of God's love and faithfulness. God's reign in our lives brings peace, not power grabbing, hope, not despair, and joy, not fear (Isaiah 2:1-5).

*Discuss:* What does it mean to you to stay awake and be prepared for the Son of Man?

*Pray:* **Dear Jesus, give me a living faith to seek your presence in my life each day so that I may know, trust, and share your love for all people and be the loving presence you want me to be. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others that they may experience hope?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Advent means "coming." During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ. Make a circular Advent wreath for your home to remind you of God's unending love and eternal life through Jesus. Use evergreens to decorate the wreath as a symbol of life and growth. Place four candles around the wreath. Put a white candle in the center that will be lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to represent Christ. For this first week of Advent, light one candle to focus on the hope we have in God through Jesus Christ.

*Say:* **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope.**



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)