

## First Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Advent, the season of the coming of Christ into the world. As we look forward to the celebration of the birth of Christ on Christmas morning, we remember that there is a whole season that comes before it. A season of waiting. A season of longing. And yet this Advent and this Christmas will be so different from those past.

What are some ways that you think Christmas might be different this year?

Are there still things that are going to happen to make it feel like Christmas?

In the Gospel reading for the day, from the Gospel of Mark, Jesus talks about recognizing signs, signs of the changing season, signs of the coming kingdom. You can read it for yourself in Mark 13:24-37.

Jesus is clearly not talking about the birth of Christ, but rather the coming of the Kingdom of God.

In what ways is the birth of Christ the first sign of the coming Kingdom of God?

Even though this will be an atypical Advent, in what other ways do we mark the coming Kingdom of God?