



Advent 2021

The Season of Advent will begin on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 28. Advent is a four-week season of prayer, reflection, hope and anticipation.

Of prayer: In many ways, Advent is a season of prayer, as we begin a new liturgical year and pray for God's grace and mercy. We prepare for Christmas, yes, and we prepare for the end time when we will all be united with God forever.

Of reflection: Advent calls us to reflect on our lives of faith, yes, and how we treat one another in life. Advent gives us a time to step back from our busy lives to be with God and others on our spiritual journey and consider what it means to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as people of love, justice and mercy.

Of hope: The liturgical color for Advent at St. Mark's and in many churches is blue. Blue is considered a hopeful color and is also a color often associated with Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Advent is a season of hope, hope in the promise of Jesus who came among us and continues to come among us in Word, in Eucharist and in one another.

Of anticipation: During the four weeks of Advent, we light candles on our Advent wreaths, one after another, in anticipation of the joy which is ours in Jesus, the Christ, our brother, our Redeemer and our friend. Yes, we anticipate the joy of Christmas and we anticipate the time in the future when all things will be made new in Christ.

I invite you to a Holy Season of Advent even in the midst of the lingering sadness and the anxiety of the pandemic. I need Advent and perhaps you may need Advent as well, a time of prayer, reflection, hope and anticipation. Each Sunday of Advent, our worship will begin with "O come, O come, Emmanuel", as we invite the love of God in Jesus into our hearts in a very special and hopefully meaningful way.

Come and see! Come and taste the goodness of God as experienced at St. Mark's during this year's Advent Season. I believe your celebration of Christmas will be all the more joyous!

Peace and blessings for a Holy Season of Advent.

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