



**ADVENT MIDWEEK 1**  
**Jesus Christ is the Same**  
**Yesterday, Today, and Forever**  
December 6, 2017

**AS WE GATHER**

As Christmas approaches, you may be concerned about preparations for your various holiday celebrations. There are presents to buy, decorations to put up, cards to send, and food to prepare. In the reading from Romans 13, Paul encourages us to “put on the armor of light.” We often do not think about how we are preparing ourselves for Christmas. We are often too focused on preparing the external rather than the internal. As Advent begins, remember to prepare more than presents, decorations, and cards. Prepare your heart and mind, body and soul to be ready when Christ comes again. This includes putting on the armor of light.

**HYMN SING**

**OPENING HYMN #348 “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”**

The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child, To bear and fight and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun That lights the morning sky.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn When Christ, victorious, rose  
And left the lonesome place of death Despite the rage of foes.

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn Shall dawn upon our race  
The day when Christ in splendor comes And we shall see His face.

The King shall come when morning dawns And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly, King of kings!

(Rise)

**INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Christ is coming soon. Alleluia!

**People: We await His return and look for His coming.**

Pastor: God calls us to cast off the works of darkness

**People: and put on the armor of light.**

Pastor: The light of Christ shines in the darkness,

**People: and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

Pastor: Awake from sleep and walk in the light.

**People: We walk in the light of the Lord.**

Pastor: Christ is coming soon. Alleluia!

**People: We await His return and look for His coming.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, Creator of the universe, you have enlightened all creation with the light of Christ. Help us to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 2:1–5* (All nations shall flow to a mountain of peace and light.) The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: “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.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Romans 13:11–14* (Cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.) Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 24:36–44* (Remain ready for Jesus' return.) "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Lector: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**People: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

(Be seated)

**SERMON HYMN #331 "The Advent of Our King"**

*Rise last stanza*

The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on To set His servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise The peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite With Him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.

(Rise) All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

**SERMON "Jesus Christ is the Same Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"**

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

**LITANY**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world,

**People: shine in our darkness.**

Pastor: Send your peace and salvation from above. Light of the world,

**People: shine in our darkness.**

Pastor: Unite all people by the power of your cross and empty tomb. Light of the world,

**People: shine in our darkness.**

Pastor: Enlighten those who serve your Church with wisdom, discernment, and a spirit of peace. Light of the world,

**People: shine in our darkness.**

Pastor: Inspire those who bring beauty to this world through art, music, literature, and theater. Light of the world,

**People: shine in our darkness.**

Pastor: Grant favorable weather for the nourishment of your creation. Light of the world,

**People: shine in our darkness.**

Pastor: Deliver all those who suffer oppression, persecution, and the darkness of this world. Light of the world,

**People: shine in our darkness.**

Pastor: Send healing and care to all those who suffer illness and grief, Light of the world,

**People: shine in our darkness.**

### COLLECT FOR PEACE

Pastor: O God, true peace can only be found in you. Though we have often walked in the darkness, you have sought us with the light of Christ. Cease all our sad divisions and bring peace to every nation of the world; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

### BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**People: Amen.**

### HYMN #516 "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

"Wake, awake, for night is flying," The watchmen on the heights are crying;

"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!" Midnight hears the welcome voices

And at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?

The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take!

Alleluia! With bridal care Yourselves prepare To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;

She wakes, she rises from her gloom. For her Lord comes down all glorious,

The strong in grace, in truth victorious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.

Now come, Thou Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son,

Hail! Hosanna! We enter all The wedding hall To eat the Supper at Thy call.

5 continued

Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee, Let saints and angels sing before Thee  
With harp and cymbals' clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal,  
Where, joining with the choir immortal, We gather round Thy radiant throne.  
No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might  
Of Thy glory; Therefore will we Eternally Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

Worship Leader

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Lector

Bob Reynolds (10:00)

Acolyte

Olivia Kukor

Organist

Michelle Prince

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## Advent Mid Week Worship

### 10:00am & 6:00pm

December 13<sup>th</sup>

Jesus Christ is the Same Yesterday,  
Today, and Forever

*Dinner: Chili with fritos & toppings, Italian bread, hotdogs, chips, pickles, ice cream*

December 20<sup>th</sup>

Jesus Christ is the Same Yesterday,  
Today, and Forever

School Children's Christmas Program  
Sr. High Youth Fundraiser

*Dinner: Pulled pork sandwiches, baked macaroni & cheese, veggies & dip, chicken nuggets, Christmas Cookie Bar*

