

*Watch*

*Advent*

*Rejoice*

*Behold*

*Prepare*



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# ADVENT HOPE

- 'The time of Advent that we begin – returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints. He is faithful' Pope Francis



- Every journey begins with a step. These journeys can be different lengths. Advent is a time when we respond to those motivational and invitational words of the psalmist, 'let us go the house of the Lord.'
- (Ps 122:1)

- Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You must also be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

- James 5:7-8



- Advent is a waiting time.
- We await the celebration of the birth of Jesus
- We await Christ's second coming,
- We spent this year waiting and pondering our reality in new ways
- God is waiting for us

- Our journey will bring us from where you are today towards the village of Bethlehem and ultimately to Jerusalem.
- We can take time to think about how we can reset our compass to point us towards Jesus, following the star and leading towards the light.
- We are invited to start our Advent journey by taking up the invitation to walk towards the light. We are waiting for daybreak like the watchmen. Become that person waiting to meet Jesus at dawn.

# Intercession

- We await your coming and with joyful hearts we pray
  - **Maranatha Come Lord Jesus**
- You come to bring us hope and courage – may we be people of hope and courage in our world today
  - **Maranatha Come Lord Jesus**
- You come as reflection of God’s love – may our actions of justice and care reflect the same love
  - **Maranatha Come Lord Jesus**
- You come to show us ways of compassion and mercy – may we reach out to people in our society with same spirit of compassion and mercy
  - **Maranatha Come Lord Jesus**
- We await your coming and with joyful hearts we pray
  - **Maranatha Come Lord Jesus**





We conclude together

- *O God, open our hearts to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. Guide us in your ways of compassion, so that we may extend your love and mercy to all people. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Eternal Word, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen*

