



# ADVENT

The Coming Glory of God





“We are made to find our deepest joy and greatest satisfaction not from whatever we want, but by surrendering to God’s will.”

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My pastoral hope is that today's message moves us  
from knowing a story to knowing Jesus.

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# Key Texts:

Matthew 1:21

Luke 1:30-38, 2:10-14

1 Peter 1:10-12, 18-21

Philippians 2:5-11

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Advent means “arrival”  
or “coming”.

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# Advent's Three Directions:

1. Advent looks BACKWARD.
  - Jesus was born during the “silent years”.
  - Jesus’ lineage reminds us that God’s grace is for all.
  - Jesus’ arrival re-establishes humanity’s opportunity for intimacy with the Trinity and partnership in our life of purpose.

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# Advent's Three Directions:

2. Advent looks INWARD.
  - To help us experience the Christ that lives within us, let's look at some of the characters in the story of Jesus' birth.

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# Advent's Three Directions:

2. Advent looks INWARD.
  - The way each of these characters respond offers us a unique invitation into an experience with Emmanuel in our dark and troubling times.

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# Advent's Three Directions:

2. Advent looks INWARD.

– Joseph (*Matthew 1:18-25*)

– **Honor, Obedience, and Loyalty**

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# Advent's Three Directions:

2. Advent looks INWARD.
  - Mary (*Luke 1:38*)
  - **Meek Receptivity**
  - Our “yes” to God changes lives.

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## Advent's Three Directions:

2. Advent looks INWARD.
  - Shepherds (*Luke 2:8-17*)
  - The “nobodys” of society.
  - The shepherds remind us that God chooses the least likely. (Moses, David, Joseph, Gideon, etc.)

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# Advent's Three Directions:

2. Advent looks INWARD.

– Wise Men (*Matthew 2:1-2, 11*)

– Wealthy and intelligent men

– Overjoyed at seeing the star (*2:10*)

- **BE A JOYFUL, GENEROUS WORSHIPPER**

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# Advent's Three Directions:

2. Advent looks INWARD.

– Simeon (*Luke 2:25*)

– A man of great character

– Is led by God's Spirit

- **LIVE WITH STRONG HOPE**

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# Advent's Three Directions:

## 2. Advent looks INWARD.

– Anna (*Luke 2:36-38*)

– A gifted woman of God

– A woman of prayer and fasting

– **LIVE WITH ENDURING PRAYER**

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# Life poses two great questions:

1. **What am I going to do with my life?** (*The cry of the young*)
2. **What did I do with my life?** (*The cry of the old*)

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# How can we participate with this message?

1. Like the Wise men, privately and personally, worship wholeheartedly.
2. Feed your hope with God's word, testimonies, fellowship, and serving others.
3. Build regular times of prayer into your life.

