

## **First Sunday of Advent Cycle C**

### **INTRODUCTION: (COMMENTATOR)**

Welcome, everyone; here in our worship space, on Zoom, and on facebook. Wherever you are physically, spiritually we are united as one body in Christ.

We celebrate the start of a New Year on this first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we light the candle of hope.

Advent comes from a Latin word – “*advenire*” - which means “to come to”

Advent is a time to reflect on three “comings-to” in particular:

The Coming of God to the world as a human baby

The Coming of God to the world in glory at the end of time where God’s purposes will be fulfilled

The Coming of God into the world today. Jesus the Christ comes to us now in word and sacrament, in prayer and praise, in his Body, the Church.

Our Advent readings teach us to look beyond even our own hopes. What newness in life, what new experience in faith, what new understanding, awaits us as we turn our minds and hearts to the coming of our Lord again this year?

Let us gather in song.

## **Lighting the Advent Candle**

Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope.

As we light it, we recall prophetic voices  
that announced the Prince of Peace,  
that called for the reign of justice  
and announced a cry of unspeakable gladness.

They call to us from across the ages  
to be people of hope once again.

May the light of this wreath  
illuminate our way and our lives  
as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.

Lord Jesus, may you find us watching  
and waiting in joy when you come,  
for you are Emmanuel, God with us.

And let the people of God, the Church, say:

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: (LECTOR #1)**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.**

The days are coming, says our God,  
when I will fulfill the promise  
I made to the house of Israel and Judah.

In those days, in that time,  
I will raise up for David a just shoot  
who shall do what is right and just in the land.

In those days Judah shall be safe  
and Jerusalem shall dwell secure;  
this is what they shall call her:  
"Our God is our justice."

**"The Word of God."**

**R/. "Thanks be to God!"**

**SECOND READING: (LECTOR #2)**

**Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**

**A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.**

Brothers and sisters:

May Christ make you increase and abound in love  
for one another and for all,  
just as we have for you,  
so as to strengthen your hearts,  
to be blameless in holiness before our God  
at the coming of our Savior Jesus with all the holy ones. Amen.

Finally, brothers and sisters,  
we earnestly ask and exhort you in Christ Jesus that,  
as you received from us  
how you should conduct yourselves to please God  
– and as you are conducting yourselves –  
you do so even more.  
For you know what instructions we gave you  
through Christ Jesus.

**"The Word of God." R/. "Thanks be to God!"**

*(Turn the microphone off)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (To be sung)**

**GOSPEL: (PRESIDER)**

**Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars,  
and on earth nations will be in dismay,  
perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

People will die of fright

in anticipation of what is coming upon the world,  
for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

And then they will see the Promised One

coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

But when these signs begin to happen,

stand erect and raise your heads  
because your redemption is at hand.

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy  
from carousing and drunkenness  
and the anxieties of daily life,  
and that day catch you by surprise like a trap.

For that day will assault everyone  
who lives on the face of the earth.

Be vigilant at all times

and pray that you have the strength  
to escape the tribulations that are imminent  
and to stand before the Chosen One."

**The Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ.**

**R/. Praise to You, O Jesus Christ!"**

## **COMMENTATOR:**

This special season focuses our minds on the wonder of God entering the human family. As we invite Christ into our lives, let us present to him all our needs.

Advent is our time of holy preparation for Christmas. Lord, we ask that You grant us the time and energy, the foresight and the wisdom to review how we live our lives – with our families, our friends, our communities, our work and most importantly, with You, Our God.

We pray to the Lord                      R. Lord hear our prayer

We pray for success in our country in reducing the presence of the coronavirus, and offer prayers of gratitude for all those who continue to work at the front lines to serve those who are ill,

We pray to the Lord                      R. Lord hear our prayer

That the leaders of the nations will stay awake in the face of so much human suffering caused by the pandemic, resist the temptation to be absorbed in self-interest, and work together for the common good of all.

We pray to the Lord                      R. Lord hear our prayer

That today's International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People inspire the stateswomen and statesmen of the world to assist in bring peace to the Holy Land, security for Israel and Palestine, and a new era of hope and cooperation

We pray to the Lord                      R. Lord hear our prayer

We now invite you to share your prayers with the community so we can pray with you today. If you are on Zoom, please feel free to unmute your mike.

*After some silence, close us with these words...*

Loving God, during this holy period of Advent, create in our hearts a place of silence so that we can properly prepare to welcome the gift of your presence. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Prayer After Communion**

Come, Lord Jesus, make us ready for your reign of justice and peace.  
Let us find you in the crimson-colored dusk,  
in the crescent moon and flying geese,  
the chill of every winter night.  
Let us see you in laughing children,  
and in our brothers and sisters of every culture and faith.  
Keep us awake and watching,  
prepared to welcome those who enter here with open arms and full hearts.  
May all who seek you, including the Charis Community,  
see and follow the light of your unconditional love, **Amen.**