



A Message On Advent from Bishop John

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Advent, the season of waiting and preparation, is a time of anticipation, both hopeful and anxious. When we await something joyful, like our Advent and Christmas services, we wonder: Will people come? Will the message resonate? Yet, even in our excitement, fear can linger. On the other hand, if we anticipate difficulty—such as bad news—we may worry if we'll have the strength to endure.

This tension is natural. Anxiety pushes us to do our best and prepare thoughtfully, while living through challenges often reveals the strength we have in God's love. Advent echoes this truth, reminding us of the hope we find in Christ.

Luke 21:25-36, our Gospel for Advent Sunday, paints a vivid picture of a world in turmoil: nations in anguish, people fainting from fear. It's far from the cozy, postcard version of Christmas we often picture. But amidst this fear, God's messengers repeatedly reassure: "Do not be afraid." This message, echoed by Jesus Himself, invites us to trust in God's presence and calming strength.

This past year has been an anxious one for many. In our churches and communities, we face spiritual, financial, and practical challenges. Globally, conflicts, economic pressures, and personal struggles weigh heavily. Yet, God calls us to hope—to remember that the promise of Christmas is the incarnation: God with us, bringing peace and joy to our lives.

Advent is busy—filled with services, visits, and preparations for December 25th. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the noise and pressure. But this season invites us to pause, find joy in God's love, and share that joy with a world that deeply needs it.

Have a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas,

Bishop John