

## THE COMING KING (CHRISTMAS 2021)



**Advent is the time of year when the church prepares for the birth of Christ and anticipates his return. To help assist in worship, churches often light candles on an Advent wreath to represent the themes of the season.**

**“Adventus” is Latin for arrival or coming.**

### HOPE

What is HOPE? Today’s culture tells us it is a “wish” a kind of blind prayer. But in the Word of God – hope is a confident certainty of what is to come. Hope defined means a courageous and confident expectation in the promises of God. We remember that baby Jesus was Israel’s hope of God’s Messiah to save, heal, forgive, and restore. Our hope is in the second coming of our Savior.

**Romans 15:13** Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in him, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8:24** For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees?

**Titus 2:13** as we wait for the happy fulfillment of our hope in the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### PEACE

What is PEACE? The Bible tells us that God is a God of peace, he is the Prince of Peace, and that offers his peace as a gift to everyone who will receive it and on whom his favor rests.

**Isaiah 9:6** For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us. He shoulders responsibility and is called Wonderful Adviser, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**2 Thessalonians 3:16** Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all.

### JOY

What is JOY? Joy flows out of our hope in God! Joy is real and eternal. Joy is found in our Savior and our relationship with him, not the comforts he provides. Joy is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Joy is life-changing and contagious.

**Luke 2:10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people:

**Acts 13:52** And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

**John 15:11** I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete.

### LOVE

What is LOVE? “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” Love is defined by God. “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” “For God so loved the WORLD that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

**1 John 4:19** We love because he loved us first.

**John 15:12** My commandment is this—to love one another just as I have loved you.

### THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Christ Candle represents the light that the Son brought into the world when he was born a little baby, God in the flesh. The fact that the Advent candles remain on Christmas Eve puts the focus on this special moment of birth, the moment of transition from prophecy to fulfillment.