EMBRACE | EMBODY | EXTEND



5th Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 10

JULY • 13 • 2025

WELCOME TO ADVENT!

Advent means "arrival" or "coming." Many of us have a temptation to believe that we can live a good enough life or do the right things to make our way to God. We think that if we do enough of the right types of things, then God will allow us into His home. But the Bible tells us again and again that we are never the first movers in this relationship. God is always the initiator. He spoke all things into being; He created; and He pursues. He is the one who arrives. And we see this in the first advent of God.

John begins his gospel by saying, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (ESV). God the Son came to us in the first advent: what the church calls the incarnation. He didn't wait for us to try and make our way to his heavenly abode. He didn't stand above us to lecture us or condemn us. He came to us. In fact, he became one of us, taking on flesh, pain, sorrows, and death.

And God hasn't stopped there. After Jesus came into this world to inaugurate the reign of God on earth as it is in heaven, after he died on the cross to atone for our sins, and after he was raised from the dead to defeat sin and death, He ascended to heaven to assume the throne. Scripture tells us that he will come again. And when he comes again, he is bringing the new heavens and the new earth with him.

It is in this second advent, that Jesus promises to make all things new. Though he has already dealt with sin and death, it isn't until he comes again that death will be eradicated. ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY | LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST | ORDINARY

PENTECOST

"The season after Pentecost Sunday and leading up to Advent is referred to as Ordinary Time. It does not mean the time is boring and mundane, but rather "Ordinary" refers to the "ordinal" way that the church calendar counts the Sundays from Pentecost until the Season of Advent. Historically the church has used this time to more fully flesh out Christ's work in the lives of her people, in the church as a whole, or in Christ's Kingdom over all the earth. Robert Webber writes that during Ordinary Time,

Many worship traditions follow lectionaries that highlight the work of the Spirit in the mission of the church in the world. Other churches organize their worship life around a lectio continua, continuous readings from a given section of Scripture. Some worship traditions have also called this season 'Kingdomtime,' focusing on the kingdom of God that is present now and the one that will be realized in more profound ways in the future....

[Thus] the various Sundays are not connected by a particular theme. In Advent we await the coming of Christ; during Christmas, we celebrate his arrival; and at Epiphany, we proclaim that Christ is manifested to the world as Savior. During Lent, we prepare for the death; in Holy Week, we reenact his death; then in Easter, we celebrate his resurrection and complete the Easter cycle with the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. But in the nonfestive season of the church year, there is no unified theme that ties the Sundays together.

At Advent Houston, we want to use this "nonfestive" season to focus on our particular mission in this particular time and place that God has for particular individuals like us. We want to minister to one another in the distinct ways that we need to hear the good news of what Jesus has done, and we want to practice our faith in light of the truth that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.

*Robert E. Webber, Ancient Future Time

QUESTIONS

Inward Grace for Outward Glory

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (NASB1995) 2 Corinthians 3:18

Think of two or three examples from your own life of experiences where your faith has actually been strengthened, rather than undermined, by adversity.

Looking back, how does that make you feel now? Our passage in Peter this week shows us how difficulties can actually prove our faith.

In what ways does "joy inexpressible and full of glory"
manifest itself in your life? The point of the question is
not to create angst over your levels of joyful
exuberance, but rather to seek for evidence of what God
is actually doing in your life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)
Philippians 4:4-7

But, as we wait for him to come again, we wait with hope. And as we wait, we live in light of that hope – praying for and acting in the knowledge that God's Kingdom will come in bits and pieces even now, offering us glimpses of the way that it is supposed to be, the way it will ultimately be.

In the middle of these two advents of Christ, there is a third advent. There is the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to be with us, to help us to remember all that he taught and accomplished (John 14:26), and to help us as we follow him by faith. And Jesus tells us to follow him in the same way that he himself came. We are to leave our own comforts and to come into the places that he has called us. And so, in that way, we want to take the example of Christ's first coming to enter into the lives of our community. We want to bear witness to the coming of the Kingdom of God in its fullness in the future. And, we want to minister as the mouthpiece, the hands, and the feet of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 20:21).

So, Advent Houston is a **coming** of a group of Christians to the Texas Medical Center, to Rice University, and to the surrounding neighborhoods to embrace, embody, and extend the grace of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

We are so glad that you are here with us!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 25

Leader: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul

O my God, in you I trust;

People: Let me not be put to shame;

Let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

Leader: Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

People: Lead me in your truth and teach me,

For you are the God of my salvation;

Leader: Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

People: According to your steadfast love, remember me,

For the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

Leader: Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way. So instruct us and lead us into worshipping you.

ALL: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

*SONG Joyful Joyful

Words by Henry Van Dyke and music by Ludwig van Beethoven and Edward Hodges © Words and Music: Public Domain

Joyful joyful we adore Thee
God of glory Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee
Opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light of day

All Thy works with joy surround Thee Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays Stars and angels sing around Thee Center of unbroken praise Field and forest vale and mountain Flowery meadow flashing sea Chanting bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee

Thou art giving and forgiving
Ever blessing ever blest
Wellspring of the joy of living
Ocean depth of happy rest
Thou our Father Christ our Brother
All who live in love are Thine
Teach us how to love each other
Lift us to the joy divine

Mortals join the mighty chorus Which the morning stars began Father love is reigning o'er us Brother love binds man to man Ever singing march we onward Victors in the midst of strife Joyful music lifts us sunward In the triumph song of life

PRAYER OF ADORATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1-10, pg. 557

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;

the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord,

ney shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert: ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

 And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

*SONG

Come Light Our Hearts

Words and music by Sandra McCracken
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Chorus

For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait
For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait
Truly our hope is in You
Truly our hope is in You
Repeat

Verse 1

O Lord of life our only hope
Your radiance shines
On all who look to You in the dark
Emmanuel come come light our hearts
Repeat
Chorus

Verse 2

Oh joy above all other loves
In You we find more than enough
We come as we are O heal and restore
Come light our hearts
Repeat

Ending Chorus

For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait Truly our hope is in You Truly our hope is in You Truly our hope is in You

STORIES OF MISSION & MERCY

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 35-36.

Leader: What does it mean that he "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and

born of the virgin Mary"?

People: That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal

God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature, so that he might also become David's true descendant,

like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.

Leader: How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

People: He is our mediator and, and with his innocence and perfect

holiness covers, in the sight of God, my sin, in which I was

conceived and born.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Anonymous, based on Psalm 55 and 66.

Leader: Let us hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed

rejoice. Hide your face from our sins and blot out all our iniquity.

All: Create in us a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit

within us. Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and grant

us a willing spirit to sustain us.

Leader: Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has

done for us.

All: We cried to him with our mouths; his praise was on our tongue.

Leader: If you had cherished sin in your heard, the Lord would not have

listened; but God has surely listened and heard your voice in

prayer.

All: Praise be to God, who has not rejected our prayer and withheld

his love from us!

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Peter 1:3-5.

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According

to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through

faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

*I LOVE YOU LORD

Words and music by Laurie Klein © 1978, 1980 House Of Mercy Music

I love You, Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You
O my soul, rejoice
Take joy, my King
In what You hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound
In your ear

ADVENTURERS

CHILDREN (1ST - 5TH GRADES)

All children, 1st through 5th grades, are invited to go to Adventurers, for a children's lesson and activity time during the sermon. The Adventurers will be escorted back to the worship area during the Passing of the Peace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader:

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

(Leader intercedes on behalf of needs of church and world)

SERMON READING

1 Peter 1:1-12, pg. 953

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Paul Long

"With Joy Inexpressible and Full of Glory"

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY & PRIVATE PRAYER

All giving is a response to God's generosity to you in all aspects of life, but particularly through the person and work of Jesus. If you are not sure what you think about Jesus or Christianity, or if you are a guest, we would invite you to refrain from giving at this time. Online giving is available at adventpres.org/give. You can also scan this QR code or place a gift in the offering basket near the entrance of the worship area.

SERVICE OF THE TABLE

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

ALL: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,

trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, who always delights in showing mercy. Nourish us, therefore, gracious Lord, so that in partaking of this sacrament of your son Jesus Christ, we may walk in newness of life, grow into his likeness,

and evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give

thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the

glory of your Name:

SONG

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (Sanctus)

Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full
Full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He who comes
In the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

People: Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these

your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ and with your church in all the world. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and

forever.

People: Amen.

Leader: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Leader: These gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in

remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your

hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION AT ADVENT

Advent welcomes all baptized Christians to participate in the Lord's table. This includes all Christians, whether members at Advent or at another church. Children who have been baptized and admitted to the table by the elders of this church or the leadership of another church are also welcome to the table.

If you're still investigating Christianity, not sure what you believe, or simply choose not to participate, you may either remain in your seat or come forward, cross your arms over your chest, and receive a blessing. Feel free to use the prayers printed in the bulletin below. Non-communing children are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing while their parents receive communion.

ABOUT THE ELEMENTS

- We serve both wine and grape juice for communion.
- Grape juice is available in the center of the communion trays; wine is available along the edge.
- All communion bread is gluten free.



PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me the ability to follow you no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen. A prayer of belief: A prayer for those struggling against sin: A prayer for covenant children who have not yet made a profession of faith:

PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead and are now representing me at the Father's right hand in heaven, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE STRUGGLING AGAINST SIN

Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE NOT YET MADE A PROFESSION OF FAITH

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.

It Is Well

COMMUNION SONG

Words by Horatio Gates Spafford and music by Philip Paul Bliss © Words and Music: Public Domain

Verse 1

When peace like a river attendeth my way When sorrows like sea billows roll Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say It is well, it is well with my soul

Chorus

It is well (It is well)
With my soul (With my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

Verse 2

Tho' Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come Let this blest assurance control That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate And hath shed His own blood for my soul Chorus

Verse 3

My sin O the bliss of this glorious tho't
My sin not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord O my soul

Chorus

Verse 4

And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight The clouds be rolled back as a scroll The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend Even so it is well with my soul

*SONG All Must Be Well

Words by Mary Bowley-Peters, alt. by Matthew S. Smith and music by Matthew S. Smith © 2007 Detuned Radio Music (ASCAP)

Through the love of God our Savior all will be well Free and changeless is His favor all is well Precious is the blood that healed us Perfect is the grace that sealed us Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us All must be well

Though we pass through tribulation all will be well Ours is such a full salvation all is well Happy still in God confiding Fruitful if in Christ abiding Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding All must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow all will be well Faith can sing through days of sorrow all is well On our Father's love relying Jesus ev'ry need supplying Yes in living and in dying All must be well

On our Father's love relying Jesus ev'ry need supplying Yes in living or in dying all must be well

*CLOSING PRAYER

*BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14 (ESV)

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the

fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: AMEN!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTIAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP (CSF) DINNER

July 20th, 6:00 PM

Calling all medical students, invite your med student friends to meet your Advent med student friends for dinner.

Sign-up on Church Center

Location: Walton's Home | 531 Wisteria St.



RYM - MIDDLE SCHOOL TEXAS

August 2nd – 6th

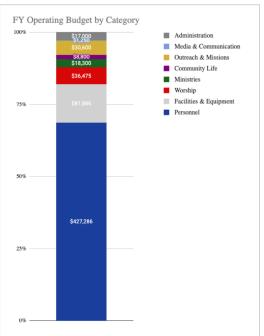
Who wants to go to RYM? Talking to middle schoolers here, sorry adults. It's time to sign up. Reach out to Maggie.

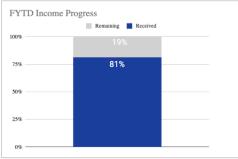
Sign-up on Church Center

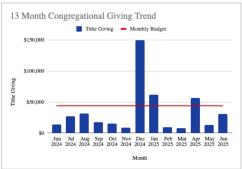
Location: Allaso Ranch | Hawkins, TX

FINANCIALS

FISCAL YEAR 2025 (JUNE - JULY) - AS OF JUNE







GIVING AT ADVENT

If you are a first-time visitor, we invite you to simply be our guest today! Contributions from our members and regular attenders sustain the work of our church, our staff, and our people. We give sacrificially and graciously because of the joy we have in God's generosity to us! May we be regularly reminded of the Lord's provision and care for us while humbly accepting the invitation to participate in His work.

FOR MORE READING

2 Corinthians 9:6-15, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:9-15; Hebrews 7 PCA Foundation: https://pcafoundation.com/is-tithing-a-christian-obligation/

HOW TO GIVE

It would be tremendously beneficial to have more regular and automated giving throughout the calendar year. All options are available to you from leaving a donation in the offering basket, to automating online giving, to donating appreciated securities. We welcome your questions and input. With the wonderful help of Auxilio Partners, we strive for transparency. Our budget is available upon request.

AdventPres.org/Give



DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS

These daily readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary and are intended to complement the readings heard in worship. The first three days readings reflect on the prior Sunday's readings, while the last three days lead into the upcoming Sunday's readings.

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