
EMBRACE | EMBODY | EXTEND



ADVENT
HOUSTON

Fifth Sunday Of Lent

MARCH • 17 • 2024

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.

LENT

“Unfortunately some Christians live as though the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ never happened. Our lives become absorbed in the day-to-day experiences of life. We focus on name-brand clothing, the color of our houses, the size of our bank account, the year and make of our automobile, the prestige in which others hold us, and the symbols of our own power. We too easily forget our Maker and Redeemer, replacing God with things and ambition. Lent is the season that does something about this situation. It calls us back to God, back to basics, back to the spiritual realities of life. It calls on us to put to death the sin and the indifference we have in our hearts toward God and our fellow persons. And it beckons us to enter once again into the joy of the LORD – the joy of a new life born out of a death to the old life.”

Lent is a forty-day period in the church calendar that dates back to the 4th century. It was originally a time of preparation and spiritual discipline for all who were being baptized at Easter—the normal time of baptism for all new Christians and their families. As early as the 1st century, we see Christians using a time of preparation for their baptism, and with time, this preparation grew to forty days in association with Jesus’ forty days of prayer and fasting in the wilderness.

Lent is a time that beckons us to remember our own baptismal vows. Martin Luther encouraged his congregation during Lent to “live into [their] baptism.” And so, we too should live into our dying with Christ and rising with Christ. We too are called to live into that pattern of repentance and faith. We are invited to turn away from all distractions and sins and turn toward God.

This lenten practice can take many forms. We can choose to fast from food, reminding ourselves that Christ is our daily bread. As theologians Louis Weil and Charles Price remind us, “The psychosomatic unity of human beings makes it inevitable that a physical glut will cloud mind and spirit.” Alternately, we can fast from some of the distracting behaviors that we have slipped into, like scrolling on our phones at bedtime. Or, we can pursue new habits that help us to pattern our lives on the life of Jesus; we may commit to praying every day or to calling a friend to check on them every day.

During this lenten season, make time to consider the condition of your heart and to enter into a season of living out your baptism in repentance and faith.

REFLECTIONS

Jesus's thirsting, Jesus's suffering in accordance with the Psalms is a reminder that this Jesus is Israel's son. Israel's suffering, her abandonment, comes to a climax in the cross of Jesus. Finally in this "I thirst" we see the end of Israel's Christ-haunted sufferings.

— **Stanley Hauerwas**

Even in the midst of his helpless condition, he is manifestly aware of his divine destiny. This is the way that John has portrayed the Lord throughout his narrative, from beginning to end. In chapter 10, Jesus says, "I lay down my life for [my] sheep.... No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; tis charge I have received from my Father" (John 10:15, 18). The Crucifixion is not an accident, not a mistake, not an unfortunate slip-up. It is the deliberate self-offering of the Good Shepherd.

— **Fleming Rutledge**

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

Adapted from Psalm 51:1-12 & 119:9-16 (ESV)

Leader: You, O LORD, have given us Your Word to guard our way in purity and truth

People: **You desire truth in my inward being; and you teach me wisdom in my heart**

Leader: Though we were brought forth in iniquity, you wash us, and we are whiter than snow

People: **Let us delight in your statutes, and let us not wander from your commandments**

Leader: May the LORD teach us the rules of his mouth so we may delight in them

People: **Give us clean hearts and right spirits that we may hear joy and gladness**

*SONG

All Creatures of Our God and King

Words by St. Francis of Assisi and music from German hymn tune *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

© Words and music: public domain

Verse 1

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alle-luia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

Refrain

O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse 2

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

Refrain

Verse 3

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light,

Refrain

Verse 4

And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God, and on Him cast your care,

Refrain

Verse 5

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in one,

Refrain

PRAYER OF ADORATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

[5] So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; [6] as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." [7] In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. [8] Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; [9] and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, [10] having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:20-33

[20] Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. [21] So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." [22] Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. [23] And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. [24] Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. [25] Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. [26] If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

[27] "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. [28] Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." [29] The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." [30] Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. [31] Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. [32] And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." [33] He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. (ESV)

Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to you Lord Christ.**

*SONG

As the Deer

Words and music by Martin Nystrom

© 1984 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing

Verse 1

As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

Chorus

You alone are my strength my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

Verse 2

You're my friend and You are my brother
Even though You are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything

Chorus

Verse 3

I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy-giver
And the apple of my eye

Chorus

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Adapted from the Confession of Saint Patrick

Leader: Christian, what is it that you believe?

ALL: There is no other God, but God the Father, unbegotten and without beginning, in whom all things began, whose are all things; and his son Jesus Christ, who manifestly always existed with the Father, indescribably begotten before all things, and all things visible and invisible were made by him.

He was made man, conquered death and was received into Heaven, to the Father who gave him all power over every name in Heaven and on Earth and in Hell, so that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and God, in whom we believe.

And we look to his imminent coming again, the judge of the living and the dead, who will render to each according to his deeds. And he poured out his Holy Spirit on us in abundance, the gift and pledge of immortality, and we worship one God in the Trinity of holy name.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Almighty God, although this life can be bitter, we have let bitterness grow in our hearts.

ALL: Too often we abandon what You provide because we don't get what we think we deserve.

Leader: We forget that we deserve death.

ALL: And we even more we forget that get what we don't deserve: new life because of Jesus' sacrifice in our place.

Leader: We have suffered many things but we have also cause great sufferings.

ALL: We have failed our family, our friends, and our neighbors.

Leader: We do not have, because we do not ask you.

ALL: When we ask, we do not receive, because we ask with wrong motives, that we may spend what we get on our pleasures.

Leader: Still we hear you calling our names and we know you will come back for us.

ALL: You saw us as a poor orphan but you brought us into an everlasting home that will not crumble.

Leader: Give to your children repentant hearts filled with thanksgiving and hope.

ALL: In the name of Jesus, our faithful Friend and King. Have mercy on us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Adapted from Isaiah 35:10 (ESV)

Leader: Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness.

Sing a song of redemption!

Let sorrow and sighing be no more.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

*KYRIE ELEISON (Lord Have Mercy)

Words: Ancient Text, Music: Phil Madeira



LEADER: Lord Je-sus Christ, son of God, have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner.



ALL: Lord Je-sus Christ, son of God, have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner.



LEADER: Ky-ri-e e - le-i-son. Lord Je-sus Christ, have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner.



ALL: Have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner. Have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner.

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 Chapel during the Passing of the Peace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

From *Forward Movement Prayers*

Leader: Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in thy Son's Name: We beseech thee mercifully to incline thine ear to us who make our prayers and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things which we faithfully ask according to thy will, may effectually be obtained, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Leader Intercedes for the world, Church,
and the needs of our congregation.*

Leader: We pray all of this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying ...

People: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

SERMON READING

John 19:28-30

[28] After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." [29] A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. [30] When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (ESV)

Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to you Lord Christ.**

SERMON

Will McKee

The Seven Last Words of Jesus - "I Am Thirsty"



Do you have a question about today's sermon? If so, click on the QR code for discussion at the next Question & Discussion time.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you!**

RETURN OF ADVENTURERS

During the Passing of the Peace, the teachers will bring the Adventurers back to the Chapel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are glad to have you worship with us today. Please sign-in on the pad located near the center aisle and record your information there.

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 chapel.



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 to the Lord.

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

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

Leader: And now we give you thanks because each year you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed. By Your Spirit we grow in loving reverence for you and of willing service to our neighbor.

As we recall the saving acts that give new life in Christ, you bring the image of your Son to perfection within our hearts.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and singing:

ALL:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
Hea - ven and earth are full, full of your
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world.

All glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

People: Grant us your peace.

Leader: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

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.

COMMUNION SONG

In Christ Alone

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

© 2001 Thankyou Music

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

Verse 2

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Verse 4

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath.
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

***SONG**

Who You Say I Am

Words and music by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan
© 2017 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

Verse 1

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

Chorus 1

Who the Son sets free oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, yes I am

Verse 2

Free at last, He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

Chorus 2

Who the Son sets free oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, yes I am
In my Father's house there's a place for me
I'm a child of God, yes I am

Bridge

I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am

Repeat
Chorus 2

*CLOSING PRAYER

*BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to
you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

ALL: AMEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PICKUP SOCCER

Friday, Mar. 22nd at 6:30 – 8:00 P.M.

Join the monthly pick-up soccer game for medical sojourner families as an opportunity to have fun, run around, meet people, and share a meal.

Location: Weekley Family YMCA Soccer Field

Register at AdventPres.org/Events.



MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BAKING CLASS – MAKING MACARONS

Friday, March 22nd, 4:30-6 P.M. at the Leachman's

What a special treat for middle school girls to learn how to make macarons from Pastry Chef Lauren Bergeron! Friends bring friends to this event. The more, the MORE!

Location: Leachman's | 4517 Evergreen Street

RSVP at AdventPres.org/Events.



LADIES SPRING DINNER: GROWING IN GRACE

Saturday, March 23rd, 6-8 P.M. at the Van Meter's

Invite your friends to join you for a ladies evening out. Enjoy dinner and a message from Marisa Shields.

Location: Van Meter's | 3219 Rice Blvd

RSVP at AdventPres.org/Events.

Holy Week Services

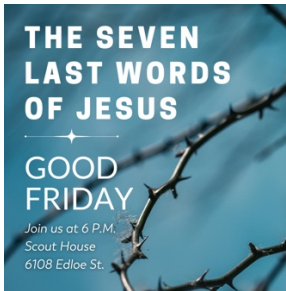


MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNERS

Thursday, March 28th, 6-7:30 P.M.

Several locations. Join one of the existing groups or host your own Maundy Thursday Dinner. Childcare will be provided.

RSVP at AdventPres.org/Events.



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, March 29th, 6-7 P.M.

The Season of Lent draws to a close and so does our sermon series, "The Seven Last Words of Jesus." Join us as we mark this special time together at our Good Friday service.

Location: Scout House, 6108 Edloe Street



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, March 31st, 10 A.M.

Celebrate the Risen Lord with your Advent family. Invite your friends and family to join you.

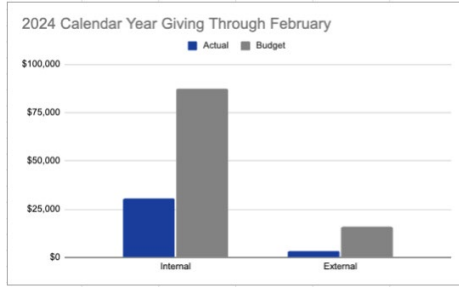
Location: Weekley Family YMCA, Gymnasium



GROUPME – JOIN ADVENT'S GROUPME

Click the QR code and join the Advent Houston GroupMe Community Group. Chat with your friends. Learned something new – share it. Going out to lunch after Worship – let everyone know! Want prayer - post it on the Prayer Group. And more ...

2024 CALENDAR YEAR GIVING



Media Release

Advent Houston shares photos taken at our events in our monthly newsletters, on our website, or on social media for the purpose of promoting and highlighting the church’s mission. By being present, you consent to being photographed and having these photos shared. For individuals who are not comfortable being visible in a shared photograph, please notify the church at admin@adventpres.org to opt out of the media release.

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ADVENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON

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ADVENT HOUSTON EXISTS TO EMBRACE,
EMBODY, AND EXTEND THE GRACE OF JESUS
TO THE TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER, RICE
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