
EMBRACE | EMBODY | EXTEND



ADVENT
HOUSTON

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 8

JUNE • 30 • 2024

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.

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*

REFLECTIONS

"America today is a save-yourself society if there ever was one. But does it really work? The underdeveloped societies suffer from one set of diseases: tuberculosis, malnutrition, pneumonia, parasites, typhoid, cholera, typhus, etc. Affluent America has virtually invented a whole new set of diseases: obesity, arteriosclerosis, heart disease, strokes, lung cancer, venereal disease, cirrhosis of the liver, drug addiction, alcoholism, divorce, battered children, suicide, murder. Take your choice. Laborsaving machines have turned out to be body-killing devices. Our affluence has allowed both mobility and isolation of the nuclear family, and as a result our divorce courts, our prisons and our mental institutions are flooded. In saving ourselves we have nearly lost ourselves."

— **Ralph Winter**

"Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; Where your treasure is, there is your heart; Where your heart is, there is your happiness."

— **Augustine**

"You can always give without loving, but you can never love without giving."

— **Amy Carmichael**

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

Psalm 65:4-5 (ESV)

Leader: Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts!

People: **We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!**

Leader: By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,

People: **O God of our salvation!**

*SONG

Come Thou Fount

Words by Robert Robinson and music by John Wyeth

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Come thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of thy unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 6:19-24

[19] “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, [20] but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

[22] “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, [23] but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

[24] “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (ESV)

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

STORIES OF MISSION & MERCY

*SONG

My Worth Is Not In What I Own

Words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Gettyand, and Graham Kendrick

© Getty Music Publishing

Verse 1

My worth is not in what I own
Not in the strength of flesh and bone
But in the costly wounds of love at the cross

Verse 2

My worth is not in skill or name
In win or lose in pride or shame
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross

Chorus

I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest treasure Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him no other
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

Verse 3

As summer flowers we fade and die
Fame youth and beauty hurry by
But life eternal calls to us at the cross

Verse 4

I will not boast in wealth or might
Or human wisdom's fleeting light
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross

Chorus

Verse 5

Two wonders here that I confess
My worth and my unworthiness
My value fixed my ransom paid at the cross
Chorus

Ending

My soul is satisfied in Him alone

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from Martin Luther's Shorter Catechism, 1529

Leader: Christian, what is it that you believe.

People: I believe that God has created me and all that exists;

**that he has given and still preserves to me body and soul,
eyes, ears, and all my limbs, my reason and all my senses;
and also clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home,
family, all provision and all my possessions;**

**that he provides me richly and daily with all the necessities
of life, protects me from all danger, and preserves and guards
me against all evil; and all this out of pure paternal, divine
goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of
mine;**

**for all which I am in duty bound to thank, praise, serve, and
obey him. This is most certainly true.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Adapted from Rev. Giorgio Hiatt

Leader: Father, you have called us not just to believe in you, but to follow you. You have called us to follow you in the spreading of your Kingdom. Yet our lives are so out of step with you.

In your kingdom, power is used to serve others.

People: **In our kingdoms, we use power to serve ourselves.**

Leader: In your kingdom, money is promiscuously shared.

People: **In our kingdoms, we anxiously hoard it.**

Leader: In your kingdom, the broken and downhearted are pursued.

People: **In our kingdoms, we push them away.**

Leader: In your kingdom, we are to take our pain to you.

People: **In our kingdoms, we numb our pain through denial, alcohol, overwork, food, and sexual fantasies.**

Leader: In your kingdom, forgiveness is given as a gift.

People: **In our kingdoms, we desperately try to earn it. Father, forgive us we pray. Forgive us and cleanse us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

Leader: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light

Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: Amen

*Doxology

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow” words by Thomas Ken and music by Louis Bourgeois

© Words and Music: Public Domain

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen

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

Book of Common Prayer, General F41.

Leader: Our God and Father,
Make your ways known upon the earth,
People: your saving power among all peoples.

Leader: Renew your Church in holiness
People: and help us to serve you with joy.

Leader: Guide the leaders of this and every nation,
People: that justice may prevail throughout the world.

Leader: Let not the needy be forgotten,
People: nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Leader: Make us instruments of your peace
People: and let your glory be over all the earth.

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

SERMON READING

Ecclesiastes 5:8-12

[8] If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and righteousness, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them. [9] But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields.

[10] He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. [11] When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? [12] Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. (ESV)

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

SERMON

Rev. Taylor Leachman

Wisdom for the Way “They Increase Who Eat Them”



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: 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:

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: 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.

COMMUNION SONG

Psalm 34 (Oh Taste And See)

Words and music by Isaac Wardell, Paul Zach, and Wendell Kimbrough

© 2017 Wendell K Songs

Verse 1

I sought the Lord, and He answered me
And delivered me from every fear
Those who look on Him are radiant
They'll never be ashamed, they'll never be ashamed

Verse 2

This poor man cried and the Lord heard me
And saved me from my enemies
The Son of God surrounds his saints
He will deliver them, He will deliver them

Chorus

Magnify the Lord with me, come exalt his name together
Glorify the Lord with me, come exalt his name forever

Verse 3

O taste and see that the Lord is good
O blessed is he who hides in Him
O fear the Lord O all you saints
He'll give you everything,
He'll give you everything

Chorus

Bridge

Let us bless the Lord every day and night
Never ending praise, may our incense rise

Repeat x3

Chorus x2

*SONG

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

Words by Samuel Stennett and music by Christopher Miner

© 1997 Christopher Miner Music

Verse 1

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

Verse 2

All o'er those wide extended plains,
Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns,
And scatters night away.

Chorus

I am bound (*I am bound*)
I am bound (*I am bound*)
I am bound for promised land,
I am bound (*I am bound*)
I am bound (*I am bound*)
I am bound for promised land.

Verse 3

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,
Are felt and feared no more.

Chorus

Verse 4

When shall I reach that happy place,
And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face,
And in His bosom rest?

Chorus x2

***CLOSING PRAYER**

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Abby Jones
Children's Ministry Director

***BENEDICTION**

Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PARISH GROUPS

Ever wonder how to get connected at Advent? One way it to join one of the several Parish Groups. Whether you are a family or a single there is a Parish Group for you. Take the first step and click on the QR code and complete the form.



HUDDLES

Relationship. It's about deepening a relationship with each other and our Lord. Listen to Taylor and learn more about Advent's Huddles.



QUESTION & DISCUSSION

TODAY, June 30, 12:15

Got questions? Let's discuss. Scan the QR code to submit your question. Join us after the worship service for lunch and discussion at Betsy's.

Location: Betsy's | 4400 Bellaire Blvd



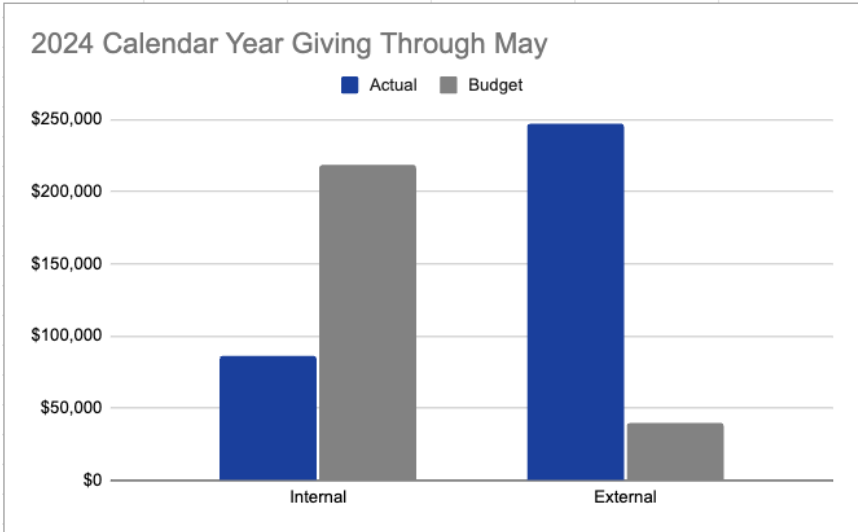
OVERNIGHT PRAYER RETREAT

August 2nd 4:00 P.M. to 3rd 2:00 P.M.

We're going back to the Villa de Matel, this time for an overnight of prayer and quiet reflection. This is a special place to be still or simply wander. Meals are provided. Advent has 12 slots available for you and your friends.

Register at adventpres.org/events

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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