ADVENT at Christ Church Anglican Church

What is the season?

Advent is the opening season of the Christian year in the 1928 American Book of Common Prayer. It is a season of watchfulness, repentance, hope, Scripture, and preparation for Christmas, while also keeping the older Anglican emphasis on Christ's coming again to judge the quick and the dead. The name for the season comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning coming or arrival. Advent in the Anglican Church speaks first of Jesus Christ's incarnation or appearance on Christmas Day. Secondly, Advent heralds the second appearance of Christ, when He returns to judge the living and the dead.

Collects:

The First Sunday in Advent

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

This Collect is to be repeated every day, after the other Collects in Advent, until Christmas Day.

The Second Sunday in Advent

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Third Sunday in Advent

O LORD Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

O LORD, raise up, we pray thee, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Forms of Prayer to be used in Families

Morning Prayer	Page 587 BCP
Evening Prayer	Page 589.BCP

Scriptures to be used found on pages x and xi in the BCP

Opening sentence for Morning Prayer: Repent ye; for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. St. Matthew 3:2

Opening sentence for Evening Prayer: Watch ye, for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly find you sleeping. St. Mark 13: 35, 36

Other Traditions:

Advent wreath: Its circular shape symbolizes God's never-ending love for mankind and eternal life in Him. Greenery used show our hope in His return. The candles symbolize the passing of the four weeks of the season. The last candle, known as the "Christ Candle" reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. The pink candle, used for the third Sunday of Advent, signifies Gaudet Sunday and the nearing of the end of Advent.

Advent Calendar: Calendars give us a guideline to celebrate and form our prayers for each day of Advent.

Baby Bottles: These are a discipline of giving back to God especially during the season that we celebrate His gift to us. The donations will go to His work being done at our partner, the Life Care Center in Carthage.

Nativity Scene or Creche: During the season of Advent when this is used only the inn and animals are to be displayed. Mary, Joseph and the Christ Child are placed in the nativity scene Christmas Eve. Wise men are not placed in the creche until January 6th, or Epiphany.

Lessons and Carols: Service in which God's story is told in Scripture and Hymns. We will celebrate this service on the third Sunday of Advent.

Private Confession: As in Lent, it is important that we cleanse our hearts that we might readily receive the Incarnation of God in the Christ Child. Private confession is done in an appointment with the Rector.