

SERMON NOTES Sunday 3 December

sunnysidechurch

Advent 1: Getting ready for the coming King

Bible passage: Mark 13.24-end

Introduction

- Advent traditionally seen as a time to get ready for the coming King
- Spiritual preparation is important and helps remind us why we are celebrating Christmas

Getting Ready

- **Confession:** time to reflect on our life and see where we are falling short of God's will for us and failing to show our love for him by not obeying his commandments
- **Bible study:** time to learn more about Jesus and what it means to follow him through reading our Bibles and perhaps an Advent book
- **Holy Spirit:** ask for a fresh infilling of God's Spirit so we might show more of his good fruit (e.g. Galatians 5.22-23)
- **Invitation:** Jesus invites us to meet him and share that invitation to know God with others

Conclusion

- Advent (coming) is about two comings: the coming of Jesus at Christmas and his coming again in glory as King
- As we wait for second coming can do so with hope because Jesus came just as God promised he would
- As we wait, we get ready and pray Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus

Some questions for discussion

1. What is your experience of Advent?
2. Read Mark 13.24-end. What do you notice?
3. How does the first coming of Jesus at Christmas help us as we wait for his coming again?
4. How are you going to get spiritually ready this Advent? Are there things you feel prompted to do to help (see Getting Ready on these notes if you need ideas)?
5. R S Thomas wrote a poem which concludes 'the meaning is in the waiting'. How might this be true for you this Advent?
6. Who might you invite to a Christmas event or service? Start praying for them and think about when you will invite them.
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passage? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

'At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.' (Mark 13.26)

Come, Lord Jesus
Why not spend some time thanking God that Jesus will come again and praying for those situations where his presence is desperately needed?

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[Link to R S Thomas poem](#)