

What is Advent?

Simple definition: A season to recollect the hope of the coming of Christ, and to look forward to the Lord's coming again.

Word can mean both "arrival" and "coming"

Latin word "*adventus*" is the translation of the Greek word "*parousia*"

Advent involves both looking to the past and to the future

- In mid-6th century Advent was seen as the end of the church year
- Now we see it as the beginning of the year
- Originally celebrated over five Sundays instead of four

"In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God's new world, yet we praise God who raised the 'righteous branch' to rule with justice and righteousness."

– *Introduction to the Liturgical Year*

The in-between time

It is our time to prepare for the one who judges *and* redeems

Beginning in 5th century the rule was to fast three times a week during Advent

Themes for each of the four Sundays:

1. Hope
2. Peace
3. Joy
4. Love

Advent wreath tradition believed to originate with Lutheran Church in the 16th century

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*verse 4*)
O come Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!