

Advent – Light of the World

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Mark 13:24-37

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

There has always been an association between light and Christmas

The light of Christ and his coming has influenced everything in this dark place.

*What connections do you see with Christmas and light?

*What is your experience with Advent? Do you have any practices or traditions you can share?

The light of Christ wakes us up to all the ways Jesus is present and creates expectation

Read and discuss Mark 13:24-37 (NIV)

²⁴ “But in those days, following that distress,

“the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light;

²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,

and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

²⁶ “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.

³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: “Watch!””

*What do we see in this passage about dark and light? Why do you think these verses would be studied at the beginning of Advent?

*What does it mean to be alert and keep watch?

Being awake is about building a bigger table, finding ways his presence is already here, and not drifting spiritually

We prepare for the second coming by embracing the way of radical love and sharing the Gospel, welcoming his presence in our lives, and not wasting our lives on things that don’t matter eternally.

*What does it look like to be awake in these ways this Advent? How could we help one another?

*How awake are you or are you distracted? Anticipating or drifting?

*What is the Spirit speaking to you about being watchful and wakeful...especially in these next four weeks? How could you apply the word ‘watch’?

Consider beginning every day of this season with this Prayer of Wakefulness

Unexpected light of Jesus, your advent alarms us.
Wake us from a drowsy life and drowsy worship,
Wake us from the sleep that neglects love,
And wake us from the sedative of misdirected frenzy.

Awaken us now to your coming, and bend our angers into your peace.
King Jesus from the heavens your rain down mercy and kindness,
Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch,
that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy

Raise our heads in expectation,
That we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.