

Advent 2025: The Invitation to Wait

Advent is a season of waiting and anticipating. And we are not particularly patient people.

Christmas starts showing up as soon as summer ends, four months before Christmas Eve. In November, after Halloween but before Thanksgiving, we begin to decorate and cue our playlists. By the time the liturgical season of Advent begins on November 30th this year, we are well into the Christmas season.

So, you can see, we need to remember to wait and be patient as we anticipate the birth of Jesus. We need to remember the miracles surrounding his birth, remember the number of times people are told “do not be afraid,” remember the faithful responses of Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, the shepherds and the Magi. Their stories deserve our attention.

Advent is a time to slow down while the rest of our culture screams “more!” Do more, buy more, be more. In the midst of the busyness, we begin to yearn for “normal” to return again after the holidays. Waiting and anticipating Jesus’ birth is not waiting for normal to resume. Jesus’ incarnation as a baby, as God made flesh, as Emmanuel, ushers in a whole new way of living and believing that isn’t normal at all. Slowing down with the story allows us to prepare for the new year and a new way of living our faith.

Gracious God,

May we have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to love in an entirely new way, as we wait patiently for the arrival of the Christ child.

Amen.

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