

## Advent

Advent is the coming of Christ. We await the Christ child. The beginning. We thought this year would be different, Covid would surely be over, normal would return, we would hug and shake hands, but things did not turn out as we hoped and expected and here, we are again. But it is Advent and Christ is coming as a baby once again and we have a new beginning. No matter how crazy and hopeless our world is we have one sure thing. It is Advent and the Christ child is coming. We get ready for yet another altered Christmas, but Christ is coming. We are told some things will be in short supply, but Christ is coming. The numbers keep going up and we must adapt once again to a pandemic, but Christ is coming. Christmas will happen and gifts will be given because Christ is coming! Nothing can stop Christmas from coming, certainly not a pandemic. War did not stop it, recessions did not stop it, even a great depression did not stop it, Christmas is coming. Our Christ child will come again this Christmas. We will look up and see the star and be reminded that we are not alone. Christmas is coming, it will not be the same as it was, but we will not either. We have learned to appreciate the small things, the hug of a friend, the kindness of a stranger, the caring of a neighbor, the silence of the snow, the smile of a child, the laughter of a loved one, we even appreciate the wonders of the computer age as we Zoom with family and see the baby girl we fed blueberries to in the Summer now eating them by herself with a spoon. Yes, Christmas will come, and we know this to be true because Christ's very words have assured us that he is with us always.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Matthew 28:20b and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Lord, be with us as we go through this time of unrest, disease, and worry. Be with those who hunger and thirst for you, help us Lord to reach them. Be with our church as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ, to feed the hungry, to reach the unchurched, to comfort those who grieve. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and be with his family. Be with our Leaders and our Staff, strengthen them and guide them. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Grace Epperson