

Welcome to the season of Advent! Ad-what?!

Advent is the four weeks before Christmas, beginning with the first Sunday after Thanksgiving. It's one of those seasons that we may have heard the Church folk talk about, but one that is not well understood. So what is this Advent season?

Advent began in the fourth century as a way to remember the Epiphany. The Epiphany-what?! The Epiphany is traditionally the sixth of January and symbolizes the day the Magi visited Jesus as well as other events in Jesus' life, including his baptism. By the Sixth century, the Roman church changed the idea of advent to be linked to the coming of Christ.

Today, the season of Advent is a time when we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. But (I love this part!) not just his coming on Christmas, the day we celebrate his birth, but his Second Coming. Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." and Hebrews 10:37 "For in just a very little while, He who is coming will not delay"

As we prepare for Christmas, we spend a lot of time thinking about the types of gifts we need to purchase, the meals we need to prepare and the places we need to travel to but during this time of Advent, we should not be spending so much effort on these earthly matters. We need to spend our time thinking eternally and preparing for that which no one knows the day or hour. We need to set our minds on things above. Let us live these days in expectation, preparation, anticipation and longing.

Jesus Christ is coming again