

## The Season of Advent.

The Season of Advent is the first Season of the Christian Calendar.

*During the four Sundays before Christmas - we remember that Jesus came to our world as a babe, that he is coming into our lives, churches and communities today - and that he will return to our world on the Day of the Lord.*

The Season of Advent is observed during the four Sundays before Christmas Day. Each Sunday with a distinct traditional theme.

The word "Advent" essentially means "coming" and "expecting".

A. ***It is a time for hope.*** During the Advent Season we in faith are looking forward to the day when the kingdom of Jesus will bring all distress to an end. And Jesus who promised to return to us says: "Yes, I am coming soon." (Rev 22:20).

B. ***It is a time to seek peace with God and each other.*** During this season we remember that Jesus wants to come into our lives, here and now, through his Spirit's work in us, and through us come to a lost world in dire need of him.

C. ***It is a time to be filled with joy,*** because God became a man and was born as a baby on that first Christmas, to become our Redeemer and King!

D. ***Ultimately it is a time for love.*** God so much loved us that he sent his Son, that we may not perish but have eternal life. This love we share with our fellow believers and with the whole world.

We remember during the four Sundays of Advent that Jesus Christ promised to physically come to us again, to create a new heaven and earth in which we will live for all eternity! *This expectation inspires us to believe that the coming of the Lord brings hope, peace, joy and love to our lives, our churches and our world!*

### Central Message of the Season of Advent: God gave his Son

During the four Advent Sundays before Christmas day, we will remember that Christ took on our weak, human nature and became one of us. As the Apostle Paul puts it in 2 Cor 5: 21: *God made him who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.*

This is what Christ did for us on that first Christmas day. In taking on "weak human flesh" he came to live the life that God requires and we cannot accomplish, and lived it perfectly, holy and without sin, in our place!

We want to celebrate that when God gave the gift of salvation, he did not send new laws and rules through which to figure out how we can be saved. **No, he sent his Son to save us.**

The Advent message remains that (John 3:16) *God so much loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*