

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

Advent Message

Archbishop Shane Janzen



WE enter into the holy Season of Advent and the new Church Year very differently than we did in 2019. The year of our Lord 2020 has brought new challenges, new concerns, new demands on our lives and on our way of life. Faith in God, faith in our public institutions, faith in our national leaders, has been tested and will continue to be tested. To say that we are in the final days is not an exaggeration. Yet we have always been in the final days for our Lord told His disciples that we are living in the 'final age'. Advent is the season of preparation for that Day and for the return of our Lord in glory.

The Scriptures for this Season remind us of the two Comings of Christ: The first at the end of time; and the second, in time. One we await with eager anticipation; the second we celebrate with joyous faith.

Where we live now is between these two eschatological realities. 2020 has put to rest any idea we may have had that we are able to control the destiny of our lives in the absence of godly faith, hope and love. The year has brought concern and fear. We have gone from an isolated Covid-19 outbreak to a global pandemic; we have experienced increasing natural disasters including life-threatening

*A Province of the
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hurricanes, tropical storms, earthquakes, fires and floods. Nations have been rocked by political divisions, increasing polarization, and social unrest. The cries of secularization, coupled with attacks on churches and people of faith, have increased as humanity tries to grapple with its past sins while attempting in vain to forge a world without God. All of which was prophesied:

Luke 21:11: *"There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven."*

Jude 1:18-19: *"In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions. It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit."*

2 Timothy 3:1-5: *"But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power."*

Yet even in the face of this reality, Advent brings a message of hope. Repentance, renewal, re-engagement, are all themes of

this Season. And lest we become discouraged by our present reality, we hear again the resounding words of Scripture: *"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light."* (Romans 13:11,12)

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world; He calls each of us to be lights in the world, shining brightly with the light of faith and the flame of hope. Where the world scoffs, we bring belief; where governments order churches to close, we open our hearts and souls in prayer for others; where voices are raised in division and hatred, we raise the Word of God in unity and love. The ministry of Word and Sacrament, the outreach of the Church, the self-giving of Christians, the worship and

prayers of the faithful, these cannot be cancelled, cannot be silenced, cannot be shut down.

As we enter into the Season of Advent and the new Church year, I bid you 'fill your soul with God's richness and strength'. Welcome Christ's coming into your heart anew. I assure you that if you keep God's holy word close to your heart and live it out daily in your life, the promises of God will be fulfilled before your very eyes; and God will dwell with you in all grace and truth and blessing.

May each of us be drawn into the faith and mystery of Advent; and may our Lord Jesus Christ richly bless us with his grace and mercy as we prepare for His coming in time and eternity.

A blessed Advent to you all.

+Shane B. Janzen
Primate and Metropolitan



Advent Message

Bishop Craig Botterill



Nothing is more sobering than to man than the threat of death. In our Office of the Burial of the Dead, we beseech God to make us “deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life”. This pandemic presents us with an opportunity to do just that and to use the season of Advent, free from the normal distractions of our material world, to spend time in thoughtful prayer and preparation for the birth of our Redeemer, and to soberly await His second coming. Having done this, the richness and meaning of God’s gift of His only begotten Son – a gift which we don’t have to return on Boxing Day – will become more apparent and will make for a truly meaningful and joyous celebration of Christmas.

With every blessing to you and yours,

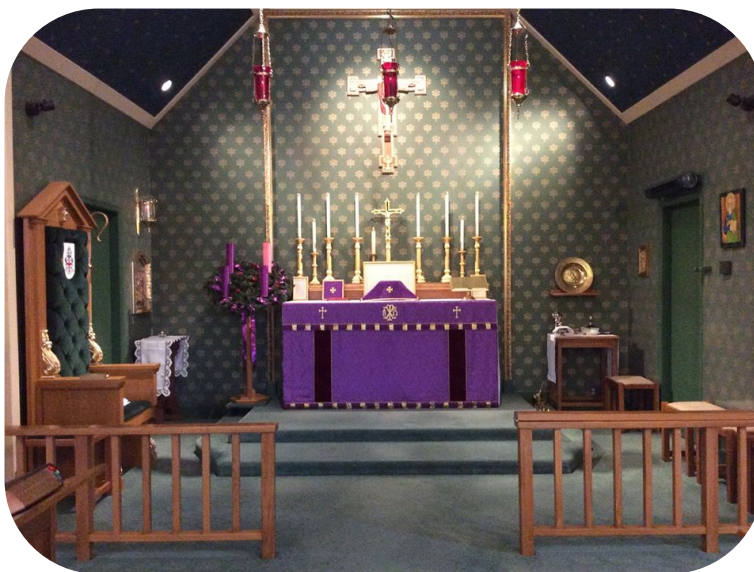
+Craig Botterill

Bishop Ordinary, Diocese of Canada East

In the world’s headlong rush to ‘market’ Christmas to consumers, the significance and meaning of Advent has nearly been lost. No doubt the Christmas carols playing in shopping Malls and TV commercials before Advent has even begun do serve to drive up retail spending and accelerate our material preparedness for the gift-giving and family gatherings that are part of our Christmas traditions, but they also leave us in a state of spiritual unpreparedness for celebrating the true meaning of Christmas – the gift of God’s only begotten Son.

Advent, with its own musical and liturgical traditions, is a time of sober, penitential preparation for the coming of Christ, both as the babe born in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes in Bethlehem two millennia ago, and as the King of Kings who will return at the end of time to judge the world by fire. Ironically, the Covid-19 pandemic which has ravaged the world this year has given us an opportunity to return to the observance of a holy Advent. With shopping and office parties and social gatherings curtailed, we are left in peace and quiet to contemplate the gift of salvation and the promise of eternal life embodied in the Christ child, and to prepare ourselves for His return.





Advent Devotions From *The Crown of the Year*

Austin Farrer

Advent I

OUR journey sets out from God in our creation, and returns to God at the final judgment. As the bird rises from the earth to fly, and must some time return to the earth from which it rose; so God sends us forth to fly, and we must fall back into the hands of God at last. But God does not wait for the failure of our power and the expiry of our days to drop us back into His lap. He goes Himself to meet us and everywhere confronts us. Where is the countenance which we must finally look in the eyes, and not be able to turn away our head? It smiles up at Mary from the cradle, it calls Peter from the nets, it looks on him with grief when he has denied his Master. Our Judge meets us at every step of our way, with forgiveness on His lips and succour in His hands.

He offers us these things while there is yet time. Every day opportunity shortens, our scope for learning our Redeemer's love is narrowed by twenty-four hours, and we come nearer to the end of our journey, when we shall fall into the hands of the living God, and touch the heart of the devouring fire.

Advent II

Advent brings Christmas, judgement runs out into mercy. For the God who saves us and the God who judges us is one God. We are not, even, condemned by His severity and redeemed by His compassion; what judges us is what redeems us, the love of God. What is it that will break our hearts on judgement day? Is it not the vision, suddenly unrolled, of how He has loved the friends we have neglected, of how He has

loved us, and we have not loved Him in return; how, when we come before His altar, He gave us Himself, and we have Him half-penitences, or resolutions too weak to commit our wills? But while love thus judges us by being what it is, the same love redeems us by effecting what it does. Love shares flesh and blood with us in this present world, that the eyes which look us through at last may find in us a better substance than our vanity.

Advent III

Jesus gave His body and blood to His disciples in bread and wine. Amazed at such a token, and little understanding what they did, Peter, John and the rest reached out their hands and took their master and their God. Whatever else they knew or did not know, they knew they were

committed to Him, body and soul; they were consenting that He should die for them, and that they, somehow, should live it out. The cock had not crowed twice that night before Peter thrice denied, but still he knew he was committed to Christ, for Christ had given him his body and his blood. Christ's body and blood lived in him, and Christ forgave him; there was no breaking of the sacramental tie. We are not worthy of Christ, but we are bound to Christ. With all the sincerity of our minds let us renew the bond, and pray to live for him who has died for us.

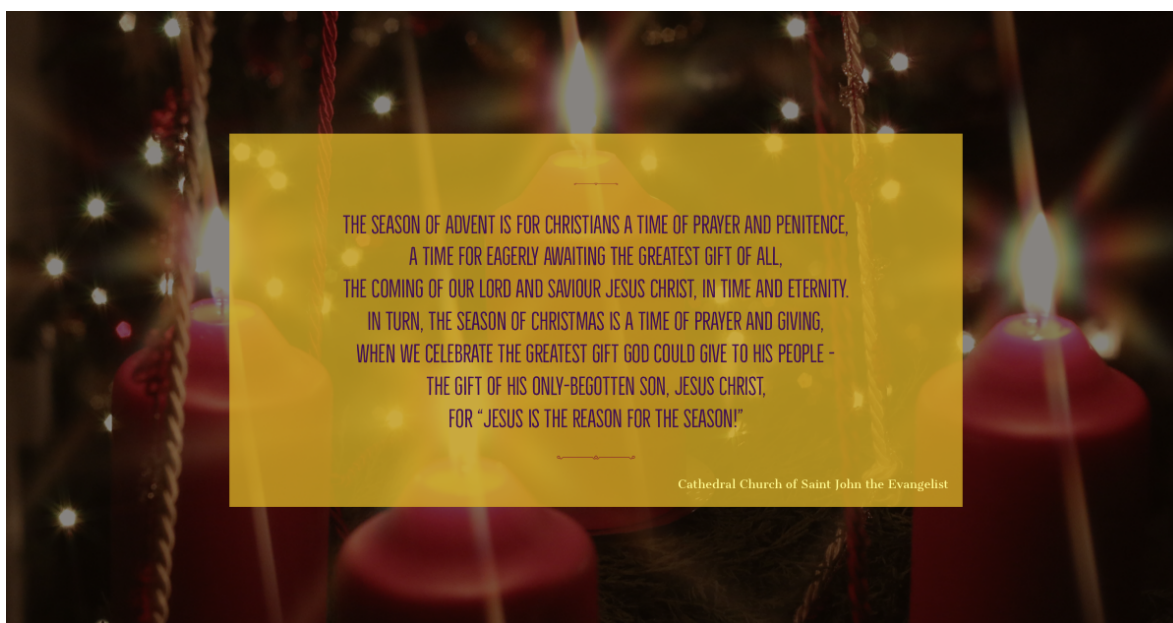
Advent IV

Advent is a coming, not our coming to God, but His to us. We cannot come to God, He is beyond our reach; but He can come to us, for we are not beneath His mercy. Even in another life, as St John sees it in his vision, we do not rise to God, but He descends to us, and dwells humanly among human creatures, in the glorious man, Jesus Christ. And that will be His last coming; so we shall be His people, and He everlastingly our God, our God-with-us, our Emmanuel. He will so come, but He is come already, He comes always: in our fellow-Christian (even in a child, says Christ), in His word, invisibly in our souls, more visibly in this sacrament. Opening ourselves to Him, we call Him in: Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

*Opening ourselves to Him, we call Him in;
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of
the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.*

Christmas Day

When Mary laid Jesus Christ upon her knees, when she searched Him with her eyes, when she fed Him at the breast, she did not study to love Him because she ought, she loved Him because He was dear: He was her Son. His conception had been supernatural, perplexing, affrighting; it had called for faith in the incomprehensible, and obedience beyond the limit of human power. His nativity was human and sweet, and the love with which she embraced it was a natural growth, inseparable from the thing she loved. She was blessed above all creatures, because she loved her Maker inevitably and by simple nature; even though it needed the sword-wounds of the Passion to teach her fully that it was her Saviour whom she loved. The Son of Mary is the Son of all human kind; we embrace Him with the love of our kind, that we may be led up with Mary to a love beyond kind, a selfless love for the supreme Goodness, when we too shall have climbed the ladder of the Cross.



Advent Wreath and Service of Light

DURING the Season of Advent, Christians around the world observe a time of solemn preparation. Advent means 'Coming', and the Services and devotions of this Season reflect the Church's combined emphases on Christ's coming: past, present, and future.

1. Past: The Coming of Emmanuel (which means 'God-with-us') in the Incarnation; so it is preparation for Christmas -- the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Present: The Coming of Christ to us in the Sacrament of the Altar; so it is a reminder of our weekly 'preparation' for living the Christian life.
3. Future: The Final Coming of Christ in Glory; so it is a preparation for the end of time and the Day of Judgement.

On the four Sundays in Advent, many parishes and families use a Service of the Lighting of the Advent Candles. On each Sunday in Advent (at Sunday Mass and in the home that day or evening), one or more of the Candles are lit and prayers are said in preparation for the Coming of Christ into our hearts and homes.

The Advent Wreath is made of evergreen boughs, representing hope and everlasting life. The four candles represent the four Sundays in Advent. Three candles are purple, as a sign of our preparation for Christ's Coming through prayer and penance; and the candle for the Third Sunday is pink, as a sign of rejoicing. The light from the candles signifies Christ, Who is the Light of the World: illuminating our 'journey' through life, enlightening our understanding, and shining in the dark 'winter' of ignorance and sin. The holly placed amidst the evergreen boughs represents the Crown of Thorns; the holly berries, drops of His Precious Blood. The wreath is bound with purple ribbon, for the 'Royal Purple' of the King of kings, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Advent Wreath Service of Light

IN the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

V. Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness;

R. Let the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.

(Isaiah 45: 8)

On the First Sunday in Advent is prayed:

BLESS, O Lord, this wreath and these candles which we light in preparation of Thy Coming, and so enkindle our hearts with the fire of Thy Love that we may receive Thee with joy and manifest Thee to all people. May this Advent Wreath be to us a reminder of the Crown of Thorns of Thy Passion, and Thine everlasting Crown of Glory as King of heaven and earth. *Amen.*

On the Second, Third, and Fourth Sundays:

O MOST blessed Light, Who lighteth every one that cometh into the world, bless us as we light these candles in preparation of Thy Coming, and so enkindle our hearts with the fire of Thy Love, that we may receive Thee with joy and gladness, and hold Thee fast with a firm faith. *Amen.*

Then, as the candle(s) are lighted, is said:

V. Our King and Saviour draweth nigh;

R. O come, let us worship.

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

VISIT, we beseech Thee, O Lord, this home and family here gathered; drive far from us all the snares of the enemy; let Thy holy angels dwell herein to keep us in peace, and let Thy blessing be ever upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Christmas Novena

(December 16th to 24th)

A Novena is a nine-day period of prayer in preparation for some particular feast in the Christian Calendar or to pray for some particular intention. The first novena was kept, at the express command of the Risen Christ, by the Apostles, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the disciples in the Upper Room from the day of Our Lord's Ascension to the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:12-14). The earliest ecclesiastical novena recorded is one in preparation for Christmas. The Christmas Novena begins on December 16, as noted in the Book of Common Prayer, p. xiii.

The Prayers:

O LORD Jesus Christ, Who for our sake didst vouchsafe to descend from Thy throne of glory in heaven to this vale of tears; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary and wast made man: Make, we beseech thee, our hearts a fit habitation for Thyself. Beautify and fill them with all spiritual graces, and possess them wholly by Thy power. Give us grace to prepare for Thy Coming with deep humility, to receive Thee with burning love, and to hold Thee with a firm faith; that we may never leave Thee nor forsake Thee; Who livest and reignest, for ever and ever. Amen.

Here say one of the following 'O' Antiphons, according to the day:

Dec. 16: **O WISDOM**, which camest out of the mouth of the Most High, and reachest from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

Dec. 17: **O ADONAI** (Lord) and Leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the Law in Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

Dec. 18: **O ROOT OF JESSE**, which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom Kings shall shut their mouths: Come and deliver us and tarry not.

Dec. 19: **O KEY OF DAVID**, and the Sceptre of the house of Israel, that openest and no man shutteth, and shuttest and no man openeth: Come and bring the prisoner out of the prisonhouse, and him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.

Dec. 20: **O DAYSPRING**, Brightness of the Light Everlasting, and Sun of Righteousness: Come and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.

Dec. 21: **O THOMAS DIDYMUS**, to thee it was vouchsafed to touch Christ

risen: Whom we petition, by His mercy from on high, to aid us in our miseries, lest we be doomed with the lost when the Judge appeareth.

Dec. 22: **O KING OF THE NATIONS**, and their Desire, the Cornerstone, who makest both one: Come and save mankind, whom Thou formedst of clay.

Dec. 23: **O EMMANUEL**, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations, and their Salvation: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Dec. 24: **O VIRGIN OF VIRGINS**, how shall this be? For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after. Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me? The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.

Finally, conclude with the Lord's Prayer and the Advent Collect:

ALMIGHTY GOD, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the Last Day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

TAC Updates

The Continuing Anglican Church of Zambia: Saying Farewell to Mrs. Dil

A farewell party was celebrated at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lusaka, Zambia for Mrs. Wenda Dil. Mrs. Dil was a cofounder of the Continuing Anglican Church in Zambia and the Makeni Ecumenical Centre.

At the end of October, Bishop Andrew Mukuyamba sent out the following announcement:

“Saturday 24th October 2020 will be remembered by the church, Makeni Ecumenical Centre community and all who Mrs. Dil’s life touched in many ways, as a day with mixed feelings. It is a day that saw people weep and laugh as we said farewell to our dear mother who has been with us here in Zambia for 53 years.

“Mrs. Dil has, after all these years, decided to be near her children and grandchildren in England and Canada. She leaves Zambia on 30th October 2020.

“During the farewell event on Saturday, people from around Lusaka, church and the settlement villages came to bid farewell to Mrs. Dil. In their speeches, they thanked Mrs. Dil and late Fr. Dil for the many good things they have done for them over the years. The event was at one time sombre and at another time joyous. The children from St. Nicholas Orphanage performed a sketch depicting the life of the Dil family when they decided to come to Zambia and set up the Centre. The occasion became emotional when the children from St. Nicholas came forward to sing. They began to cry and most people joined in weeping. But the mood changed and there was joy when Mrs. Dil gave her speech. She encouraged all that she will visit Zambia after six months. “

Her son Pierre Dil is a doctor in Victoria, British Columbia..



Mrs. Wenda Dil at her farewell celebration, 24 October 2020