

Sermon Title: The Season of Advent, Part I 11.30.2025

Themes: Faith, zeal, and glory. Live-streaming and sermon notes are at trinitycg.org and christforlife.life.

Question of the week: Where is *your* faith?

Sermon Points:

1. Your faith in the Lord. Christmas conjures up vivid memories of the lights, sounds, and smells of the season. The first Advent Candle represents the prophecy of the Messiah. The word Advent means "arrival."

Luke 1:26-33 ²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

The focus of Advent is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Messiah (His First Advent), and the anticipation of the return of Christ (His Second Advent). Advent is God-centered, not man-centered—that's pretty convicting! Advent begins today and ends on December 24th. Advent is about celebrating the revelation of Christ as our Redeemer. Advent emphasizes themes of accountability, judgment of sin, God's love for mankind, and the promise of eternal life through faith by the free gift of His grace. **Ephesians 2:8–10.**

Think about the joyful moments and precious memories in your life. Those moments of living help us weather the storms of life and anticipate the return of the Savior! Whatever you're going through *today*, your faith in Christ will get you safely to *eternity*.

2. The zeal of the Lord. **Isaiah 9:6-7** ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Peace is one of the greatest needs of every human being. We need some measure of calm, quiet, and serenity. We can't live life at 100% every moment. The world might offer a truce for today, but it does not offer lasting peace. The truce says you can live without God and be happy temporarily, but you will lose the war for your soul because in misery you will be separated from God for eternity.

3. The glory of the Lord. **Colossians 1:27.** God's glory is not defeated or insulted by our brokenness, lowliness, and weakness. As Matthew Henry notes, Colossians 1:24-29 teaches us that Christ suffered for the redemption of the church; we suffer on other accounts; for we do but slightly taste that cup of afflictions of which Christ first drank deeply. Let us be thankful that God has made known to us mysteries hidden from ages and generations, and showed the riches of his glory among us. We must be faithful to death, through all trials, that we may receive the crown of life, and obtain the end of our faith, the salvation of our souls.

To those in her day, Mary was among the least likely to give birth to the King of kings and the Lord of lords! When we look at Christmas not by what's under a tree but by who hung on it, and not by what Santa brings but by what the Savior did, we could never be disappointed on Christmas morning! Our peace comes not from *a* Santa in a sleigh but from *the* Savior in the manger! Let's faithfully honor the glory of God the Father by celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior this Christmas! **John 1:14.**

Reflection: Lord, help me to trust You and to seek Your peace and glory this Christmas.