



**Arrival: Expectation**  
**Message Notes, December 24, 2017**  
Revelation 22:17, 20-21

Today marks the end of Advent. We have considered how we “prepare” for His arrival, with faith-filled “anticipation,” and we have pondered the meaning of His “arrival” in the story of the shepherds. Last week, we reflected on our “response” of worship as modeled by the Magi. Today we end with EXPECTATION.

What are we expecting? Another arrival that awaits. Jesus is coming back. We live in expectation (and preparation and anticipation and worship) for His *second* coming – not as lowly babe but as glorious King!

Advent. Arrival. Christmas ... It’s all about Jesus! The season – the festivities, the decorations, the colors, the lights. The songs, the gatherings, the food. The gift giving. It’s all about Jesus. It’s all for Jesus. It’s all because of Jesus.

His coming 2000 years ago was the fulcrum of human history. “The Word (Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). God’s redemption of humanity has come! So we celebrate, with joy and laughter, and beauty and fellowship. It’s all for Jesus.

This advent pattern of preparing, anticipating, celebrating, expecting is for both His first arrival and His second. Hear these words of scripture that reveal the joy and wonder of His second coming:

- Matthew 24:30-31 – He will appear in the sky, with power and glory and a trumpet call.
- Luke 12:35-40 – He will come unexpectedly. We should be ready, “with lamps lit” awaiting the master’s return.
- John 14:1-3 – Jesus assures His 12 disciples and all of us that he is preparing a place for us, and he will come back to take us to be with him where he is.
- 1 Thess. 4:16-18 – He will come with the voice of the archangel and a trumpet shout, and we will be gathered to him in the sky.
- Titus 2:11-14 – A call to live godly lives in this broken world, between His two comings.
- Revelation 22:17, 20-21 – His bride, the Church, the thirsty, those longing, the Spirit himself – all say “Come!” And our glorious King replies, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

So we await with expectation His second arrival. “People get ready. Jesus is coming!” And how do we get ready? Acts 2:38 gives simple clarity:

- **Repent.** Turn *from* the fallen, sinful ways of the world and turn *to* the loving, grace and goodness of God.
- **Be baptized.** Profess publicly our faith and commitment to Jesus. Identify ourselves as His to those around you.
- **Receive the Holy Spirit.** The great gift of our gracious God is to give us His own Spirit to indwell us.

And out of these three, submit all of my life to His gracious Lordship, to honor him at all times, in all that we do.

Joyous Advent. Merry Christmas. The Lord is come, and coming!