



Ascension News
Church of the Ascension –
The Anglican Church in Hilton, KZN
Diocese of Natal in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa

ADVENT EDITION 2021

Invitation to Prayer: As we begin our Advent journey, we are called to prepare our hearts and minds for the Christ who has already come; the Christ who is present now; and the Christ who is promised to come. It is an invitation from the Lord for us to be active participants in living and proclaiming the Good News!

Reflection: During this crisis brought on by the coronavirus, racism, political strife, and economic hardship, how could we have time for anything else? There seems to be not enough time to deal with the “other things” of life, as the days roll on and on. In our various vocations of marriage, parenting, and being ministers in the church and for the Church, Advent provides us a time to slow down and identify the movement of God in our lives. Our personal reflection does not happen on its own. We intentionally set aside time to pray, to study God’s Word, to worship and to do outreach for it is in these actions that we remain alert and ready for the coming of the Lord. Our mantra for this Advent is, “We want to be ready, when Jesus comes.”

Prayer: O Come, Lord Jesus, and by the power of your Spirit breathe upon us once more so that we may remain vigilant and alert, as we wait for your return. As you have counted our days, grant us the wisdom and knowledge to do your will in every season of our lives. We pray this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



From the rector's desk

Friends, now that the feast of Christ the King is behind us, the new Christian year is upon us! If you visit the malls and shopping centres you will obviously see that they are ready for

the season already. It is of course sad that the season has become more commercial than it is about Jesus Christ. It is indeed true that there shouldn't be "Christ-mas without Christ".

To help us intentionally journey through Advent until we meet the new born King, Saviour and Friend we have designed a series called Tales of Advent. It is my hope that this series will be treated the same way we would with a Lenten course. After all, there couldn't have been the Lent and Easter season without the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Advent therefore prepares us for that special day when we commemorate the birth of Christ.

For those who will be travelling and or receiving family and friends, be assured of our love and prayers. May the God of Mary and Joseph be with you, the same God who watched over them as they travelled to the birth place of Jesus the Christ. May we be reunited soon after Christmas as we worship together. Let us not lose the zeal of meeting together in in-person services. Ours is a faith of community, we belong together and we are more edified as a collective than as individuals

Happy Advent



What is being born in you this Advent?

Joan Mauck

The word advent refers to a new beginning, to the dawn of a new season, as you approach Advent this year think of it in this way.

Reflect on what needs to begin again within you? What needs to dawn anew in your life? What adventure might you be about to embark on? What surprise does God have instore for you as you journey towards Christmas?

So, through this Advent period what new perspectives might God be inviting you to consider?

But first reflect on your journey this year.

Allow yourself to prayerfully reflect on the year. What comes to mind? What were the difficult times? What were the times of blessing? What have you learnt about yourself this year? What can you do today that you could not do at the beginning of the year? How has your walk with God been this year; have you grown closer or are you feeling more distant?

How have your relationships been this year? What needs attention? Which relationships have been life-giving, and which have made you work hard at exercising a loving heart?

If you think it would be helpful, write a letter to God around your reflections on this year's journey.

Now prayerfully reflect on what needs to rise within you during Advent. As you make this journey towards the birth of Jesus reflect on what his birth means for you. What is God calling forth to be born anew in you? As you journey towards Christmas be aware of God's presence in each day and continually look for what is forming and growing within you. Listen each day for the still small voice of God. Notice his presence in the fabric of your day.

You might find it helpful to write to God about your reflections at the end of each day.

On Christmas Eve reread your reflections and give thanks to God, not only for the Birth of Christ into the world, but also the rebirth of Christ within you.



Martin Luther called the Old Testament “the manger in which Christ lies.” Hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, the prophets foretold of the day when a Messiah would come. Malachi spoke of the messenger who would prepare His way. Micah spoke of the town of Bethlehem as the place of His nativity. Hosea spoke of God’s new exodus as He called His Son out of Egypt. Isaiah spoke of the root that would grow from the stump of Jesse, who would save His people. This Advent we will behold the wonder of Christ in the prophets as we await the celebration of His birth, and are reminded how to live with eager anticipation of His return.

MALACHI 3:1-4 – A MESSENGER IS COMING

MICAH 5:1-4 – A SHEPHERD IS COMING

ISAIAH 9:1-7 – A KING IS COMING

HOSEA 11 – A DELIVERER IS COMING

ISAIAH 11:1-9 – SALVATION HAS COME!



Reflections for Advent

Jimmy Haile

If Christ had not come, there would be no good news to tell.

If Christ had not come, there would be no hope beyond the grave.

If Christ had not come, there would be no hope for the world.

But He Did Come!



HE DESCENDED DOWN HERE THAT WE MIGHT ASCEND UP THERE

John 6:38-For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me

John 14:3-And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.



HE BECAME POOR THAT WE MIGHT BECOME RICH

2 Cor 8:9-For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

James 2:5-Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?



HE WAS BORN THAT WE MIGHT BE BORN AGAIN

John 1:14-And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 3:3-Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:7-Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."



HE BECAME A SERVANT THAT WE MIGHT BECOME SONS

Philippians 2:7-but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Gal. 4:6-7-And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"



HE LEFT HIS HOME THAT WE MIGHT HAVE A HOME IN HEAVEN

Matt. 8:20-And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

John 14:2-3-In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told

you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.



HE WAS HUNGRY THAT WE MIGHT BE FED

Matt. 4:2-And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

John 6:48-51-I am the bread of life.

Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."



HE WAS THIRSTY THAT WE MIGHT DRINK OF THE LIVING WATER

John 19:26-After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"

John 4:13-Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”



**HE WAS STRIPPED THAT WE MIGHT BE CLOTHED
IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Matt. 27:28-And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.

Matt. 27:31-And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

Matt. 27:35-Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: “They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.”

Galatians 3:27-For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.



**HE WAS FORSAKEN, THAT WE MIGHT NOT BE
FORSAKEN**

Matt 27:46-And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

Deuteronomy 31:8 And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”

Parish News

We are entering the build up to Christmas with hope in our hearts that it will be a joyful celebration of Christ’s birth and joy that we get to see friends & family and hopes that the 4th wave waits till after the festive season to arrive. Below are the services for Christmas at Ascension. If anyone is able to offer to help with duties during Christmas I would be most grateful if you could ring the office and let me know you are available.



21 December	Quite Christmas	18h30
24 December	Crib Service	17h00
25 December	Christmas day service	07h00
	Christmas day service	08h30