

December 15, 2020



One way of really enriching our Advent journey is to keep in mind the **three comings** of Jesus and how they relate to one another: His **past** coming at the **first** Christmas, His **future** coming at the end of time, and the **present** in our **everyday life**. Since the first coming of Jesus has already **happened**, we use the **Advent** season to reflect **more deeply** on what it means that **God became human, He became one of us**.

You know, I find it **awesome** that God wanted to be one of **us** and live on this **earth**. I have been blessed to have gone to the **Holy Land** three times. What an awe-inspiring experience that was. I am a firm believer in “**where there’s a will, there’s a way**”. So, I organized **pilgrimages** and got to go **free**. Sorry you weren’t around to join me!

Jesus was born into our history at a fixed point in time in the **past**, but **now** He comes to us in Scripture, inspirational books, people, nature, a poem, or the beauty of a song. However, God is often found most **powerfully** and **clearly** in the midst of messy, broken, exhausting, hurting, lives. Yes, He is here in this **pandemic**, in those who provide **food** for the hungry, who **care for** Covid19 patients, those who discovered vaccines, those who will be distributing it and the way we have expanded the use of **zoom, no travelling**. Think of the **money** and **time** we save **through zoom meetings!**

When we pray “**Come, Lord Jesus,**” we are expressing our desire for the Lord to come to us with the grace of **salvation** and be with us in **all the places we need him most now**. We need to prayerfully **seek the presence** of God in the midst of our everyday lives and **not go looking elsewhere!**

Advent encompasses the entirety of time itself, much like our God. No point in our lives is **without** God. **Advent** is a good time to consider how our lives have been spent in **service** to the Lord and others and, how we can **better use 2021 to improve** ourselves in anticipation of that final day.

So, how do we ready ourselves for Jesus to come to us? **First**, we must learn to be **expectant** by being **attentive** to our surroundings and **anticipating** God’s **presence**. **No selective hearing!** We hear what we listen for. I’m sure we’ve all suffered from “selective hearing” at least once or twice in our lives. Something must happen in our **hearts** for us to be **open** to and **aware** of His **presence now**. That something is **relationship**. **Belonging** to God—and **knowing God**—makes **experiencing** him possible. A **relationship** with him **grows** through **time** and **trust**.

Our God is a God of **surprises**. He shows up **whenever** and **wherever** He pleases, even when we’re not expecting Him. He **invades** grocery lines, cafeterias, offices, nursing stations, patient rooms, family gatherings. And, He speaks in ways we **expect** and in ways we do **not**. So, be **alert**. **He’s coming!**