



ADVENT

— Hope. Love. Joy. Peace. —

Key points

Think back through the message.
What stuck out?

THE GOLDEN HOUR

Genesis 6; Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Genesis 6:6 *“And the Lord was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.”*

Genesis 6:5 *“The Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually.”*

2 Corinthians 5:15

Love of self (if allowed) will always replace love of God

Human life was meant, in its fundamental form, to be a beautiful love relationship between God and His creation

Our behaviour is not the problem, our heart is the problem

We need to be rescued

Matthew 24:43 *“a thief in the night”*

Church history is littered with the corpses of redundant end-time predictions

Matthew 24:36

Matthew 24 is not calling Christians to engage in prediction, we are being called to preparation

- vs.42-44 *“keep awake” “understand this” and “be ready”*

The Golden Hour (the perfect time and exposure)

Jesus return will disrupt ordinary, daily activities

- vs.41, vs.31
- Matthew 25:31-34
- Matthew 24:38-39
- Genesis 6:11-13

Advent 1: Into the Wild Swirl

Advent is upon us again - where did the year go! Even as we anticipate the arrival of a season that's dear to us, I am keenly aware that the Advent season and the Christmas holidays usher in a mix of feelings and emotion for so many people. December can be a wild swirl of sorrow and stress. More than one person has told me they wish they could just crawl under the blankets until the season passes. I understand that wish entirely.

However, I have also come to know in my bones the hope that lives so deeply in this season. The story of Advent is the story of God's love that comes to be with each of us, no matter what. It's as if Advent were custom-made for those who are broken-hearted, or in pain, or merely dizzy with all that life can hold.

Amid my own Advent swirl, I am hugely grateful that I will be sharing the season with you and others through our online 2019 Daily Advent Devotion - which I will be facilitating throughout December. I also want to say that if this season is hard for you, I would encourage you to joining us daily. And doing so, you may enter into a space of sanctuary that invites you to breathe and to read/listen for the hope at the heart of this season.

And if you simply love Advent and are looking for a different way to enter more deeply into the gifts that these days hold, I would love for you to join us, too!

I've gathered up a collection of daily reflections that will start (you will receive them by email) on 2nd December and every day (except Sundays) until 24th December. There will be relevant Advent scriptures, a short reflective devotional and an Advent prayer. If your friends would like to participate, they can online at <https://www.newstart.church/newsletters>

Wherever this new season leads you, I wish you so many blessings and pray these days will hold wonders for you.



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God Bless,

Reverend Neil Taylor (Priest-in-Charge)