



## Advent Reflections for EOHSJ 1st Sunday of Advent 2018

Reflection by Rev. Sir Mark A. Strader, KCHS

The season of Advent begins with a warning to be on guard while the promises of heaven are fulfilled. I should caution against our jumping into celebrations and partying before we should, so that we might recognize the coming of the King. In biblical times they ignored the prophecies and warnings of the coming of the King, but do we recognize Christ in our midst? Or are we too deep into the noise of the world to recognize Him?

Advent provides us the opportunity to change some personal and communal habits to focus on “Adventing” and be for others that Gospel example in the face of a society that likes to jump into the season of Christmas too soon.

Approaching the end of another liturgical year and readying our preparations for Advent and Christmas, we have witnessed yet other mass shootings and tragically senseless loss of life. It is in these times that we can appreciate the tremendous gift that life is and the tragic ends that sometimes come all too quickly.

Advent, a new Church year beginning; yet, a time also to reflect upon the many blessings we have received in the past year and to mourn the losses. We begin a time of reflection upon the meaning of life; and, indeed, the brevity of life itself and how we need to make straight our path – as John reminds us next week. We come back to the beginnings of re-telling our faith story, or for some, hearing it for the first time.

Advent is NOT a time to jump into Christmas, but a season to be cherished as we wait patiently for the coming of the Lord, as foretold in the Scriptures. In this Year of Grace, may the Lord who is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, Emmanuel, God-with-us, bless your lives and homes with a reawakened faith and an attitude of gratitude. We are called to focus on the Truth in our midst and the reason for the season: Jesus Christ.

May our blessings today be recognized and shared as a part of our common heritage and discipleship in Jesus Christ. Happy Adventing!

**Faith practice: How do you celebrate Jesus’ presence in the temple of your life?**

*LORD GOD,  
YOUR CHURCH JOYFULLY AWAITS THE COMING  
OF ITS SAVIOR...*

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