

The image features a dark background with several lit candles. In the foreground, three yellow candles are lit, casting a warm glow. To the left, a taller, unlit orange candle stands. Above the candles, a decorative banner with a gold and red patterned border contains the word "ADVENT" in large, white, serif capital letters. The overall atmosphere is festive and contemplative.

ADVENT

hub community  
church

*a growing, diverse church that builds community and impacts society*

# Advent

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“Advent is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and... the return of Jesus at the Second Coming.”

# Matthew 25:1-13

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

# Matthew 25:1-13

‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

# Advent – the second coming

- Are you watching, are you waiting?
- Are you actually looking forward to it?
- What are you doing about it?

# Are you watching and waiting?

## 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, **and to wait for his Son from heaven**, whom he raised from the dead - Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

# Are you watching and waiting?

## 2 Thessalonians 1:6-7

God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. **This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven** in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

# Are you watching and waiting?

## 1 Timothy 6:13-16

I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame **until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ**, which God will bring about in his own time - God the blessed and only Ruler, the King of Kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever.

# Are you watching and waiting?

## Hebrews 10:36-37

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. **For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay."**

# Are you watching and waiting?

## 1 John 2:28

And now, dear children, continue in him, **so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him** at his coming.

# Matthew 25:1-13

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Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ **Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.**

# You do not know the hour...



# Advent – the second coming

- Are you watching, are you waiting?
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# Are you looking forward to it?

## **Revelation 22:20**

He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

# Advent – the second coming

- Are you watching, are you waiting?
- Are you actually looking forward to it?
- **What are you doing about it?**

# What are you doing about it?

## James 5:7-9

**Be patient**, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. **Don't grumble against one another**, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

# What are you doing about it?

## 1 Peter 1: 13-16

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, **set your hope on the grace to be brought to you** when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, **do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance**. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

# What are you doing about it?

## Hebrews 10: 24-25

And let us consider how we may **spur one another on toward love and good deeds**, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

# What are you doing about it?

## Hebrews 10: 36-37

**You need to persevere** so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, “In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.”

# Advent – the second coming

- Are you watching, are you waiting?
- Are you actually looking forward to it?
- What are you doing about it?

# Advent – the second coming

- Make sure you are watching and waiting for you do not know the day or the hour
- It is something we should look forward to and pray for, eagerly anticipating its coming
- It should inform our attitude, behaviour and action which we should see in the light of Jesus' imminent return