Go Tell



ADVENT 2026

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!

- Isaiah 64:1 -

ADVENT: GO TELL!

When was the last time you had an 'ohhh… I totally misunderstood that' moment?

I still remember the year when I realised I'd misunderstood the season of Advent. Up until that point, I guess like many others, I'd considered Advent as a season of preparation for Christmas. As in – Advent being the season that grows in you some Christmas spirit so that you are excited for Christmas Day – the celebration of Jesus being born. No wonder I'd been confused when our lectionary readings had been about God's righteous judgement and eternal glory, rather than just pointing towards this new-born baby! I remember thinking, ohhh, ok – Advent is not a season where we are waiting for baby Jesus, we're waiting for King Jesus and his return! We are expectantly waiting for the glory of Jesus our risen Lord and Saviour – the Prince of Peace and Eternal Redeemer. Come, Lord Jesus!

Another thing I think is often misunderstood about Christmas is that we make it about receiving. Yes – we have received the greatest gift in Jesus. But as Christians, we've already received Christ. So, if we have already received Christ, what else can Christmas be about?

In this Advent series, let's consider that this season is about proclaiming the good news of Jesus - the whole story. Jesus, the promised Messiah, God's anointed one born in a feed trough, who lived as one of us, showing us what love of God and love of neighbour looks like in our daily life. Who went to the cross and died for us as an atoning sacrifice, but rose again, defeating sin and death. And who, as the King of kings will come again to rule with justice and righteousness, stomping on evil and destroying it forever, making all things right, bringing forth a time when every tear will be wiped away and all things are made new.

This Advent, may our hearts be filled with expectation as we wait for his return. And while we wait, may we be found faithful as we 'Go Tell' the good news that Jesus Christ is Lord.

In Christ,
Rev'd Scott Windred
Holy Trinity Anglican Kawana

Week 1: Hope

Warming up:
What do you hope for? Have you ever hoped for justice to take place? Why?

Read: Isaiah 64:1-9

1. Why does the prophet want God to return? What does he want God to do when he comes?
2. This is written after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon. Why do they still want God to act so decisively?
3. Consider v.4. What gives the prophet confidence that God will respond to this prayer?
4. What does it look like for us to be people who 'wait for him' (v.4)?
5. What is the danger that the people of God face when they ask God to return? How does the prophet describe this in vv.5-7?
6. The prophet says 'we all fade like a leaf' and 'all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment'. Why is the prophet so blunt about the people's condition? What would be lost if he downplayed our sin?
7. In vv.8-9, how does the prophet resolve this tension between God's holiness and our sin? What does that teach us?
8. If God is the potter and we are the clay, what does that say about our sense of control?
9. Given God's holiness and our sin, what hope do we have when facing the justice of God?

Rubber hits the road:
God is returning to execute justice on all evil. Yet, this is our great hope! Despite our sins, God forgives all who turn to him. How can we constantly remind ourselves of this hope despite our frailty? How can we share this hope with others?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

Merciful God, we thank you that despite our sins, you are gracious and compassionate. Thank you that you have promised to return to finally and fully cast out evil from your world. Help us to know the depths of your grace and mercy. Help us to tell of this confident hope this Advent. Amen.

Week 2: Peace

Warming up:
Have you ever been greeted by a 'Welcome Party' at the airport, school, or just coming home from work? What impact did it have on your life?

Read: Isaiah 40:1-11

1. In a word, how would you summarise the message of this passage?
2. Through chapters 1-39 of Isaiah, the prophet warns of upcoming exile. Isaiah 40 onwards is a message for the exiles. Why is the Lord comforting the exiles? What has happened to Israel?
3. Who is speaking in vv.1-5? What is their message?
4. Who is vv.3-5 speaking about? (Hint: see Matthew 3:1-17)
5. How will this person be a welcoming party? Who will they welcome?
6. How does the welcoming party operate; what do they do? Why is this such a comforting and hopeful thing to do?
7. What does the voice cry out in vv.7-8? What kind of message is this?
8. What does it mean that the 'word of the Lord endures forever'?
9. What in your life has failed you? What can you trust?
10. What does the Lord command in vv.9-11? What relevance would this have for people living in exile? What relevance does it have today?
11. How does this passage teach us about ourselves and about God?
12. If someone asked you: 'What is the good news of Christmas?', how could you answer them using this passage?

Rubber hits the road:
The season of Advent is about looking back on God's goodness, and also looking forward to the day when all God's promises will be fulfilled. Find a piece of paper and write down some ways God has been faithful to you in the past. Then write down some ways you know he will be faithful to you in the future. Finally write down ways you can be faithful to him going forward.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

God of all comfort and hope, thank you that you speak solace and joy into our lives. When life is hard, you make a way through; when life is dark, you bring light. Please forgive us for our sins, help us to use this season of Advent to repent and believe the gospel. Thank you that while the grass withers and the flowers fall, your Word endures forever! Amen.



Warming up:
What is the best piece of good news you have ever received? How did it make you feel, and who did you want to share it with?

Read: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

1. In Luke 4:16–21, Jesus reads Isaiah 61:1–2 and says Isaiah's words are fulfilled in him. What does this tell us about who Jesus is and the good news he brings?
2. Isaiah speaks of good news for the poor, healing for the broken-hearted and freedom for captives. How do we see Jesus bringing these things through his ministry?
3. V.3 speaks of exchanging ashes for beauty, mourning for joy and despair for praise. How does Jesus bring hope and joy into people's lives, even in difficult times?
4. In v.4, God's people are called to rebuild and restore what has been broken. What does this tell us about God's desire to restore and renew? How can we be part of God's restoration work in our communities?
5. In vv.8–9, God promises an everlasting covenant and faithfulness to his people. How does Jesus make these promises real for us?
6. Vv.10–11 rejoices in God's salvation, comparing it to beautiful clothing and a flourishing garden. What do these images teach us about the joy of knowing God? How is this joy different from simply being happy?
7. This week's theme is JOY – Go tell it on the Mountain. Why is the coming of Jesus such good news for the world, and why should we share this joy with others this Advent?

Rubber hits the road:
What will you do this Advent to make sure the joy of Jesus is not just something you celebrate, but something you share? What is one practical thing you will do this week to help someone else experience the joy of God's good news?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

Loving God, thank you for sending Jesus to bring good news, hope, freedom and joy to the world. Thank you that in him we find forgiveness, new life and the promise of your salvation. Help us to know the joy of Jesus more deeply this Advent. Open our eyes to those around us who need to hear this good news, and give us the courage to share it through our words and actions. May we be people who go and tell the world about the joy we have found in Jesus. Amen.

Week 4: Love

Warming up:
Think about a person you love, and a significant action / decision they have made for your benefit. Did this involve a kind of suffering on their behalf? What impact did this have on you and your relationship?

Read: Isaiah 52:7-12

1. Read vv.1-6 of Isaiah 52. Which historical event is described here?
2. Now read vv.7-12 again. In light of vv.1-6, what do you think is being described here?
3. What feelings (hope, optimism, anger) do you think the prophet is trying to express in these verses?
4. What do these verses teach us about God's love for us?

Read: Isaiah 52:13-15

1. Does the prophet tell us who the servant is in v.13? What can we learn about what happens to him from these verses?
2. What happens to others because of the servant's actions?
3. Why do you think the servant has to suffer being 'disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness' (v.14) in order to create a change in others?
4. How does this description of a suffering servant compare with your understanding of Jesus' death and suffering?
5. How does knowing that God sent his Son to suffer so that we might 'see' and 'understand' (v.15) influence our understanding of God's love for us, and the joy of Jesus' birth at Christmas?

Rubber hits the road:
Suffering is not something we would wish on others. Yet we are often willing to suffer for the benefit of those whom we love. Take a moment to reflect on what God's suffering in Jesus teaches us about his love. How can you share the love of God with others this Christmas?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

Almighty God, you make us glad with the expectation of the birth of your Son, Jesus. Help us to recognise the reality of his suffering as a sign of your love for us. Grant that we may receive him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him. Grant us your Holy Spirit to go out with courage to share the good news of Christ with others. Amen.

See, my servant will act wisely;
he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

Just as there were many who were appalled at him— his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness— so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him.

For what they were not told, they will see and what they have not heard, they will understand.

- Isaiah 52:13-15 -

HOLY SPIRIT
ALGESTER

HOLY TRINITY
KAWANA

GLADSTONE
ANGLICAN CHURCH

stanthorpe
ANGLICAN CHURCH