

***Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way***

November 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44



Watching for Christ's Return Object: None.

Coming Soon! This is a season when we look forward to "Coming Attractions." When we go to the movies, we have to watch the previews of coming attractions. These are short clips of movies that will be coming soon. We call this season Advent, a season of "Coming Attractions". Do you know what that means? It means the coming of something important. What is that important thing that is coming? Well, for one thing, Christmas is coming. We look forward to hearing the beautiful music and seeing the decorations. We look forward to Christmas parties and to sharing gifts with family and friends. Most of all, we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus.

There is something else that we are looking forward to during Advent, do you know what that is? We are looking forward to the day when Jesus is coming again. Jesus told his disciples that he would come again, but when they asked when, he told them that no one knows when that day will be. He said, "No one knows the day or the hour, not even the angels in heaven. Only the Father knows."

Wow! If we don't know when it is going to happen, what should we do? Well, it is a bit like the movie previews that say, "Coming Soon to a theater near you." They don't say exactly when, so we have to be watching so that we will be ready when they come. In fact, that is exactly what Jesus told his disciples. "Be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

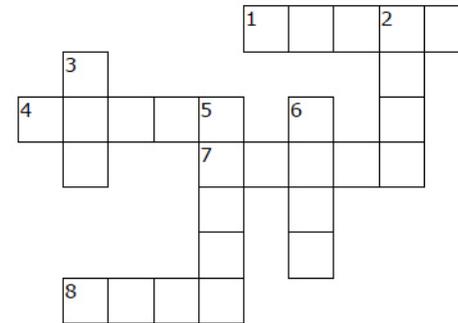
What should we do to make sure we are ready for Jesus when he returns? We should be doing the things that Jesus wants us to be doing -- loving one another, caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, and helping the poor. If we are doing those things, we will be ready when he comes.

Dear Jesus, we look forward to your return. We don't know when you are "Coming Soon," but when you do, we pray that we will be ready. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia (Psalm 85:7)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. The time of day when it is dark
4. To keep an eye on; to guard
7. The person who has something such as property
8. A particular moment in the day, such as eight o'clock

DOWN

2. A period of sixty minutes
3. A period of 24 hours
5. The place where a person or family lives
6. To have information about something; to be aware of something

TIME	OWNER	WATCH	HOUR
KNOW	HOUSE	DAY	NIGHT

CHRISTMAS TREE CUT OUTS: Give the child a large green triangle (Christmas Tree). Then cut out round colored circles from construction paper to glue onto the green triangle Christmas tree. Write words from today's lesson to remind the child to be PREPARED. The colored circles (as Christmas bulbs) will have words like "Love one another", "feed the hungry", "care for the sick", "help the poor", "attend Church", "read my Bible", etc. Add a brown construction paper tree trunk to the Christmas tree and write PREPARE to meet JESUS on the tree trunk.





Color the picture, then each day color one star beginning with number one.
(You could also use star stickers instead of coloring the stars.)