

# The Season of Advent



We wait and we wait; that's what much of Advent is all about. The Hebrew people waited centuries. And when the waiting was over, the end result looked *nothing* like what they had anticipated. The Holy Child did not come in a palace. (*should they wait for another?*) There was no trumpet fanfare to announce his birth. (*who knew this had happened?*) As he grew up, he confused the church leaders. (*he's just a kid, what could he know?*) As he gave instruction to his students, he spoke in parables – that often sounded like riddles to them. (*what do you suppose that means?*) As he described his coming walk to Golgatha, they tried to talk him out of it. (*no, no Rabbi. Not you!*) As he hung on the cross as a convicted felon, they mocked him and challenged him to prove his identity (*if he's the son of God, let him save himself.*) And those closest to him, refused to remain with him at the end. (*"Forgive them, Father."*)

We know the story. We know the many details. We know how it turns out. We know that evil, and sin, and death won't win. But that does not allow us to ignore the waiting that is a part of Advent. Because too many people *don't* know the story. They haven't heard how it turns out. And if they have, they aren't certain what it means, or how it relates to them. And that's where you come in.

It is our calling to tell the Christ Child's story. To anyone and to everyone. It takes time to tell it. It takes patience to recall the details. It takes wisdom to know when the listener is ready. And, if we don't tell the story, then we can't be surprised when the story doesn't spread.

Take time this Advent season, and tell the story. You may not do it perfectly – but please try. You may not do it successfully – but God will recognize your efforts. You may not do it often enough, to large crowds of family or neighbors. But tell it. The Season of Advent leads to one of the most glorious times of the year. And, as you lean in to tell the story, someone will want to hear more... and more... and you will spread the *good news!*

Now, wouldn't *that* make your Christmas, and theirs *spectacular!*

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas, People of God!

*Candice*

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

— *Jesus, the Messiah*