

Arrival

The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus” (Luke 1:30-31).

Advent. Every year it comes whether we're ready or not. In fact that's exactly what the word Advent means: from the Latin *advenire*, meaning “to come,” or *adventus*, meaning “arrival.”

Maybe you've waited all fall for December with excitement. Or maybe this year you're dreading the stress, the frayed relationships, the conflict you fear will come.

We cannot escape this arrival, however. For better or worse, the season finds us wherever we are in our lives, but so does the promise that makes Advent meaningful.

Regardless of our joys, fears, hopes or sorrows, a Savior is coming. His arrival is imminent.

Wherever we find ourselves as this season begins, good news is on the way.

Come, Lord Jesus, prepare our hearts this Advent to receive you and everyone who needs our welcome and love. Amen.

Your turn: As Advent begins, where is your heart? List some of your joys and sorrows.

