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Advent, from Latin *adventus*, “coming,” in the Christian calendar, is the period of preparation for the anticipated celebration of the birth of Christ and also of preparation for His Second Coming.

“The celebration of Advent is (for)... those who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.” — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Over the next few Sundays we will turn our attention to the Names and Qualities of Jesus Christ such as: The Word of God; the Resurrection and the Life; Emanuel, God with us; the Sacrifice Lamb of God.

Today: Jesus, the Word of God | John 1:1-5, 9-18

1. **Jesus, the Word of God, is God.** John 1:1-2 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...* (Matthew 1:23; Colossians 2:9-10)
2. **Jesus is the exact image and expression of God, our Father.**
 - A. Hebrews 1:2-3 *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,...*
 - B. John 14:8-9 *Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*

3. **Jesus is the Father’s Creative Word.** (John 1:3)

- A. Hebrews 4:12-13 *For the word of God is living (Zao, live with Divine Life) and active (Energies dynamic, powerful, energetic, self-working). Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*
 - Genesis 1:3-31; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16

4. **The Word of God works because it is received and acted upon.**

- A. 1 Thessalonians 2:13-14 *And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe.*
- B. Proverbs 4:20-22 *My son, pay attention (Undivided attention) to what I say; listen closely to my words (Submit my thinking, humble, teachable). Do not let them out of your sight (Continuously focus on God’s Word, make it the preeminent pattern for life), keep them within your heart (To protect, purpose to do it, live it even if everything contradicts it); for they are life to those who find them and health to a man’s whole body.*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we acknowledge You as the Word of God and as the Perfect expression of the Father. As the Father is so are You in every way.

In the beginning You created the very cosmos with Your Word. Therefore, as the Word, create Your Character in us. Create in us the fruit of the Spirit. Create in us Your strength and power over sin and all the works of the devil. Create in us a Heavenly vision and a steadfastness to allow You to fulfill that which only You can fulfill.

We dedicate this very special season to You. Make us a blessing to our family, our friends and to those who are in need. In Your Name we pray. Amen.