“Yearning for the Coming of the Lord”

Four-Week Advent Series for Adult Faith Formation
Community of the Savior, Rochester, NY
November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2026
9:00 AM

Teacher: J. Richard Middleton

Advent is the season of expectation for the coming of the Lord to bring judgment on evil and salvation to his people and the groaning creation. Richard Middleton will lead a four-part teaching session for Adult Faith Formation at CoS taking us through the Sunday Lectionary readings for the 2026 Advent Season. Each week, Richard will highlight how the Old Testament and Psalm enhance our yearning for God’s coming salvation, while the Gospel fulfils some aspect of these texts.

The movement through the four weeks of Advent is in reverse order of time—staring with the second coming; then the incarnation; then John the Baptist as forerunner of the Messiah; then the announcement of Jesus’s birth to Mary.

First Week in Advent (November 29): ***The Coming of the Son of Man in Power and Glory***. In response to the yearning for God’s coming salvation in Isaiah 64 and Psalm 80, Jesus in Mark 13 challenges us to be prepared for his glorious return.

Second Week in Advent (December 6): ***The Coming of God’s Glory in the Man Jesus***. In response to the announcement of Isaiah 40 that God will return to Zion and the positive hope of Psalm 85 for renewal and healing when this happens, Mark 1 proclaims that Israel’s God has indeed returned in the person of Jesus.

Third Week in Advent (December 13): ***The Coming of the Forerunner, John the Baptist***. In response to the renewal of God’s broken people promised in Isaiah 61 and the prayer for this renewal in Psalm 126, John 1 introduces us to John the Baptist who testifies to one who will bring this renewal.

Fourth Week in Advent (December 20): ***The Birth of the Davidic Messiah***. In response to the covenant God makes with David as his “son” in 2 Samuel 7, which is reaffirmed in Psalm 89, Luke 1 tells the story of Gabriel’s announcement to Mary about the birth of the true Son of the Most High.