

**Advent 1 - Our Preparation -
THE DAY AND HOUR UNKNOWN
Sermon Outline, 27 November 2011**

Isaiah 63: 16-64:8.....You, O Lord, are our Father Mark 13: 32 - 37.....The day and hour unknown

1. CONTEXT.

- Advent: means “coming” (Latin). Coming of Jesus.
- Advent: Colour purple. Ancient ceremony – beginning of church year – Four Sundays to Christmas
- Advent means both: Look forward to His second coming, and look back to the birth of Christ
- He came as our Saviour; He will return as our Sovereign

2. HASN'T JESUS ALREADY COME?

- Yes, but He will come again – we don't know when?

3. WHY WILL HE COME AGAIN?

- Because He promised to. Early church expected him back in their lifetime.
- Because he needs to. Not enough has changed. We still struggle to do his work
- Some have predicted it – date, even hour. All have been wrong.
- Be watchful. A warning.!
- Jesus will come again. But no one knows when that will be, so we are told to be on guard; to be ready at any time.
- All have got it wrong. Jesus tells us clearly, “no one knows when..”

4. WE NEED JESUS TODAY, MORE THAN EVER

- Word advanced so much – science, technology has – but human nature hasn't changed. Still selfish; still seek power over others; still fall for the temptations of the devil. So. He will come again. He has to.
- Be ready. Don't wait; He can come into our hearts today.

5. BUT WILL WE BE READY?

- Some day, we will all have to face the end of life on earth.
- How will we be ready?
- Accept Him, and live your life with Him at the forefront of your mind always

6. TRUST HIM

- Message of Jesus as clear today as it was 2,000 years ago:
- Came to earth with only one purpose: to show us that there a better way: His way. Only if we follow Him will we be saved from destruction.
- Bring our sins to Him: be forgiven

- Live life as he meant it to be; to the full.

7. CONCLUSION.

- Surrender every part of us to God every day, including our money, and our needs, and our fears.
- We can depend on God. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow (Heb 13:8)
- Trust Him. “when I am afraid, I put my trust in you”(Ps 56:3)
- To us our lives and our surroundings seem very important. The centre of the universe.
- But in truth we are, all of us, small and insignificant and our lives are short. In a hundred years - or even less - no one will even remember us or what we did.
- But each of us is unique, a one and only creation, loved by God.
- The world might find us insignificant and one day, like dust, we will be gone and eventually forgotten. But not by God.
- By this supreme act of love He is calling us to share eternity with Him.
- God does not care how important or unimportant you are in the eyes of the world. He knows you and He loves you. If you trust and follow Him, He will guide your steps every day and be at your side, silent and invisible, protecting you and keeping you from evil and danger.
- When we have struggles in life, he's trying to teach us something so that we might grow
- So: Thank God for His blessings daily.
- Forgive others, as you have been forgiven.
- Give generously to others– of your time, your love, your money
- And we will receive joy – and a small glimpse of the perfect bliss that awaits you, and all who follow Him, when this life is over.
- Don't worry about when he will come again. We will spend eternity with him if we love and follow him. '
- Jesus changed humankind, and human history, forever. Allow him to change you too.
- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that ALL who believe in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life”(John 3:16)
- He's making you the best offer you'll ever receive. Please take it. Please trust him.

Amen

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION IN THE WEEK AHEAD:

- Is it a good thing for Christians to set aside a special time in the year to focus on God and grow in our relationship with Him?
- What does the birth of Jesus 2,000 years ago mean to me today?
- Does the prospect of the return of Jesus (the Second Advent) fill me with hope or fear?