NOVEMBER 29, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

taking faith home

Stay awake, for God is coming with power.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	The day and hour unknown
Monday	Isaiah 64:1-9	A communal prayer for help
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	God is faithful
Wednesday	Revelation 22:12-21	Jesus is coming soon
Thursday	Micah 4:1-5	Peace and prosperity
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Children of light
Saturday	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Prayer for Israel's restoration
Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. **Mark 13:26 (NRSVUE)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
God, deliver us from harm. Let your loving face shine on us so that we may be safe in the arms of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, we thank you for this food; may it strengthen us as we wait for your arrival in the birth of your Son Jesus and for him to come again to make all things right. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May Jesus give you hope and peace.

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The "Four Key Faith Practices"—Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions—are a framework developed by the Rev. Dr. David Anderson. For a brief description, go to: https://milestonesministry.org/history-of-the-four-keys/.

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NOVEMBER 29, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn

taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Tell or think about a recent mountain high and valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you had a challenging or scary experience?
- How does faith in Jesus give us hope and help us to face scary times?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 13:24-37.

Advent begins with an awareness of life's frailty. We can protect ourselves with shelter and food, but there is always the threat of a sudden storm that can bring devastation, when the whole world seems to fall down around us. Everyone, young and old, experiences trials and sufferings. It happened to the Israelites returning from exile (Isaiah 64), it happened to Jesus' first followers, and, it happens around the world today. We need the God who promises to show up and make a difference. This Advent, we are reminded to be on the lookout for the same God who came into our world as Jesus. So, live life with joy, with courage, with hope! And stay awake, keep alert, and never give up. How does worshipping together, reading the Bible, and praying help you pay attention for when Jesus shows up in our lives?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us hope and confidence to await your coming into our lives, trusting in your healing and renewing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Advent is a reminder to diligently do the work God calls us to do, including serving others. What are some specific ways you can "stay awake" this Advent season by caring for the needs of others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The church year begins on the first Sunday in Advent. To launch this new year, gather all the Bibles in your home. If you have an Advent wreath, place the Bibles near the wreath. As you light the first candle, the candle of hope, use this prayer of blessing:
Pray: **God, we thank you for the Bible, and especially for the good news about Jesus our Lord. Make us into people who are strong in faith and full of love. Amen.**

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