

Celebration and Hope

An Advent Greeting to the International Church of the Nazarene

Hundreds of years elapsed before the prophecies of the incarnation of Christ were fulfilled. Entangled by the pressing concerns of everyday living, many wearied of waiting, gave up hope, and even forgot. But the faithful continued to watch and wait.



Simeon, “waiting for the consolation of Israel,” held the Holy One in his arms and praised God saying, “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32).

Advent is a time for celebrating but also for waiting. Today we who are witnesses to the fulfillment of prophecy celebrate His birth: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Yet we too are waiting . . . for the Second Advent when Jesus Christ will come again in His glory. We wait proactively, spreading the Good News of salvation around the world and across the street to all who have yet to know Him. We worship the Christ of the manger. We worship the Coming King. We worship when we take His message to all who are still waiting to hear of “Jesus . . . the Hope.”

To the international Church of the Nazarene, we wish you a holy and blessed Advent season and God’s grace and peace as we actively await our Coming Savior.

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