

**What is Advent?
Did you know that there are two of them?
What does that have to do with the Book of Revelations?**

Advent is a time of waiting, a season of anticipation. According to one website “Advent gives us the time to reflect on just how much our world waits with eager longing for the coming of the Messiah. As we gather on these Sundays, we are stepping toward the darkest days and longest nights of winter. Amid this gathering darkness, we hear the prophets cry out, ‘In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land’ (Jer.33:15). ‘But who can endure the day of his coming and who can stand when he appears?’ (Mal. 3:2) Only when we encounter the world’s ache for salvation will we be able to go celebrate with joy the birth of the unlikely baby Savior.”

This is true not only of the First Advent, but more importantly, it’s true of the Second Advent. Did you know that there will be two? As a matter of fact, what the world often misses is that we are in the midst of the Second Advent right now. We are awaiting Christ’s return, his second coming. It will be the completion of his work which began before his birth. The First Advent caught many people off guard, and so will the second. The First Advent involved deadly threats against God’s chosen ones, and so will the second. At the First Advent God lovingly guided and protected Jesus’ family and so does he now.

As we celebrate Christmas and the advent of Christ, we reflect upon this season with joy. But we must also remember the miracle of God’s mighty hand delivering Jesus safely into this world through a poor virgin and her husband. Why? Because then we won’t forget that God can do the same for us nor miss the fact that he will come again to make all things right. He will come to put an end to suffering and war. Advent is coming again soon. Will you be ready? On Wednesday evenings we are considering those questions and more. Please join us as we reflect upon Advent in the book of Revelations.

This article was written by Reverend Faith Green Timmons. Click on [Reverend Faith](#) to read more about her ministry.

<http://www.pcusa.org/ideas/2003-04winter/advent.htm>