

# Wrexham Methodist Circuit – Advent Reflections 2025

## Week one – Keep awake!



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**Bible reading: Matthew 24: 36 – 44** (<https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=629169326>)

### **Reflection**

In the Lion, the witch and the wardrobe – that well known children's book by C.S. Lewis, Mr Beaver tells Lucy, its always winter in Narnia but never Christmas. Taking a liberty with that quote it seems like today its always Christmas but never Advent. We might complain about the fact that the shops have had Christmas decorations for sale for several months now but is our own attitude towards Advent any different. We have filled the season of Advent with Christmas carols displacing them from the Christmas season. Of course, for events that have a missional focus it makes perfect sense for to include Christmas in Advent but in our worship and personal discipleship practices what do we lose by failing to take Advent seriously?

Advent is a time for looking forward. Naturally we look forward to celebrate that which has already happened, the Incarnation, God coming as a tiny human baby. However more central is looking forward to the time when Christ will return and the Kingdom of God will be fully consummated. On a regular basis there's likely to be an individual or group announcing that Jesus will return on a specific date. Yet here Jesus warns us that nobody will know the time and date of his return and it will be like in the time of Noah when everyone was going about their daily lives not knowing what was to come.

Advent is the time the church year gives us to remember what we know. The day of the Lord is coming: Be ready. Get ready! In the midst of the eating and drinking and marrying, the Christmas preparations and parties, the baking and shopping, Advent gives people time to remember what we know. It is Jesus who is coming, now as a child at Christmas, to be God-with-us in forgiveness and grace; then, on that day of God, as Lord of all, in righteousness and truth.

Perhaps this gospel invites us to be Noah this Advent: to stand in the midst of the busy world, watching and praying and reading the Scriptures; waiting most of all, as Christmas comes, for Christ.

### **Questions around the Bible passage**

- Advent traditionally looks both at the birth and the Second Coming of Jesus, which in Acts is described in similar imagery to the Ascension. The world is much different than it was in the time of Jesus' birth. Does this imagery help your understanding of what is to come?
- Matthew says, "The Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." How is this bad news? Good news?
- What does watchfulness look like in practice?
- Jesus compares his return to the days of Noah, when people were busy with ordinary life. What might it look like to be spiritually "asleep" in our world today?
- The prophet Isaiah gives us a vision of God's Kingdom that is a place of peace (Isaiah 2:3-4). How in the light of Jesus' words in Matthew might this give us hope?

### **Questions from 'Gifted' – The Methodist Church's 2025 Advent and Christmas materials**

- Peace as a gift
  - Where do you notice kindness or calmness in your community?
  - What small thing could you do this week to bring a bit more peace to where you live?
- A city for all people
  - What would help your church or neighbourhood feel more welcoming?
  - How can we include people who often get left out?
- Becoming a gift
  - When have you felt like a gift to someone else?
  - What's one thing you could do this Advent to help someone else feel loved?

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus,

You remind us that no one knows the hour of Your return, not even the angels in heaven. Yet You call us to live with watchful hearts and faithful hands. In a world full of distractions, help us stay awake to Your presence and Your purpose. Teach us to build lives not on fear, but on love - lives that reflect Your justice, mercy, and truth. Let our faith be active, our hope resilient, and our love generous. **Amen**