



Dear all in Jesus Christ

It is Advent again...

The season of Advent is upon us. Some may ask, "the advent of what?", so here goes a bit of help with this feast in the Apostolic Church, shared with all other traditional Christian churches. The Christian church, following earlier Jewish tradition, has long used the seasons of the year as an opportunity for festivals and holidays, sacred time set aside to worship God as the Lord of life(Brachter, 2015).

While Jewish celebration revolves around the Exodus from Egypt, the Christian Church year focuses on the life and ministry of Jesus (Bratcher, 2015). The Christian Church Year helps us follow the events of Jesus' life. By observing specific feast and holy days and seasons, it fosters unity among millions of Christians throughout the world and also for us as Christian Apostolics. Some of the seasons or feasts in our Church year are the following:

Advent = the preparation for the birth of Jesus;

Christmas = birth of Jesus;

Lent = preparation for Easter;
Easter Time = Easter to Pentecost; and
particular Holy Days such as Pentecost (Whitsunday), Ascension. etc.

...however, our focus now is Advent, so in a nutshell

- Advent is the beginning of the Church Year (CRI, 2015);
- It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24) (CRI, 2015);
- The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent (CRI, 2015);

Purple is the liturgical (colour associated with this season) and is the colour of reflection, seeking forgiveness, but also one of joy and expectation. The colour Purple is also used at this time as it is the colour of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King (CRI, 2015).

The links below will also help.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksHKrIaO1pI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AySe5pZnwig>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8_lah83UY0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S02KOlw7dIA>



3. Teaching by Apostle Flor on Advent

Beloved Brethren in Office, Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As we end a church year and begin a new church year, it is appropriate that we reflect again on the two great advents for mankind foretold by God from the beginning. The first, sent from the Father, fulfilled itself with the virgin birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who fulfilled His mission of overcoming the enemies of God, those of sin, hell and death and ascended to His Father's throne to be our High Priest, so that we are freely given the means of Grace so that all in the world could be given the opportunity to prepare for the many blessings that will come from the second foretold advent, His return to the earth, which will also be by His Father's instruction. Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." The first advent (Birth of Jesus) which triggered the blessings given to us, on a world event, would be viewed as low key. The second advent (the return of Jesus) will be seen by everyone in the world. Revelation 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every

eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so Amen.”

Let us pray that in the church year which stands before us, we continue to abide with our Lord. 1 John 2:28
 “And now little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”

Some texts for this time of Advent are: Mt. 24; Lk: 23; Rev.9:26; Mt. 10:28; ps. 111:9-10; 1 Cor.: 1:18; Mt. 11:25; Acts 1:10-11; Eph. 2:8...; Lk. 18:8...; Jams 2:17.

4. Apostle Erasmus from South Africa also explains this in his Advent Circular of 2013 by saying that:

With the four Sundays of Advent, we shall use some of the beautiful histories in the Bible of miracles as the kernel of these Advent Sundays in preparation of the Christmas Festival; the greatest of all miracles ever! (The word Advent from Latin means: “Adventus: an arrival, a coming approach, visitation, the Coming of our Saviour, an Ecclesiastical division of the year, embracing the four Sundays before Christmas.)

God bless Br Theo

Reference:

Erasmus (Apostle), P. (2013). *Advent Circular: THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH (Apostle Unity) DIE APOSTOLIESE KERK (Apostel Eenheid): Johannesburg*

Christian Resource Institute. (2015). *The Season of Advent: Anticipation and Hope by Dennis Bratcher*. Retrieved from <http://www.crivoice.org/cyadvent.html>