

# **The Advents of Christ**

## **Christ's Arrival**

*Selected Texts*

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# Christ's Arrival

## Introduction

In his best-selling book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, Philip Yancey contrasts the humility that characterized Jesus' royal visit to planet earth with the prestigious image associated with world rulers today:

In London, looking toward the auditorium's royal box where the queen and her family sat, I caught glimpses of the...way rulers stride through the world: with bodyguards, and a trumpet fanfare and a flourish of bright clothes and flashing jewelry.

Queen Elizabeth II had recently visited the United States, and reporters delighted in spelling out the logistics involved: her four thousand pounds of luggage included two outfits for every occasion, a mourning outfit in case someone died, forty pints of plasma, and white kid-leather toilet seat covers. She brought along her own hairdresser, two valets, and a host of other attendants. A brief visit of royalty to a foreign country can easily cost twenty million dollars.

In meek contrast, God's visit to earth took place in an animal shelter with no attendants present and nowhere to lay the newborn king but a feed trough. Indeed, the event that divided history, and even our calendars, into two parts may have had more animal than human witnesses. A mule could have stepped on him.<sup>1</sup>

This Season of Advent we have been exploring the advents of Christ in a sermon series called, "The Advents of Christ."

So far, we have examined "Christ's Entrance," "Christ's Timing," and "Christ's Appearance." Tonight, I would like to look briefly at "Christ's Arrival." His first advent was announced (Luke 2:10-14). But, when he comes the second time, he will come unannounced, as a thief (1 Thessalonians 5:2).

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<sup>1</sup> Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995), n. p.

## Lesson

In tonight's lesson, I want to look at Christ's arrival for his first and second advents.

Let's use the following outline:

1. Christ's Arrival for His First Advent
2. Christ's Arrival for His Second Advent

### I. Christ's Arrival for His First Advent

First, let's look at Christ's arrival for his first advent.

In our Lessons and Carols Service this evening, we read about the angels appearing to the shepherds. Let me read to you again what the angel said to the shepherds in Luke 2:10-14:

**<sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,**

**<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those  
with whom he is pleased!"**

This is just one of several announcements of Christ's first advent. The angel told Mary that she was going to become pregnant with God's Son. The angel told Joseph that Mary was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. And here the angel announced to the shepherds that Christ was born. He had arrived for his first advent.

Christ's first advent was announced to many.

## II. Christ's Arrival for His Second Advent

Second, let's look at Christ's arrival for his second advent.

Author Doug Mendenhall shares a brief parable that should cause all of us to pause and reflect:

Jesus called the other day to say he was passing through and [wondered if] he could spend a day or two with us.

I said, "Sure. Love to see you. When will you hit town?"

I mean, it's Jesus, you know, and it's not every day you get the chance to visit with him. It's not like it's your in-laws and you have to stop and decide whether the advantages outweigh your having to move to the sleeper sofa.

That's when Jesus told me he was actually at a convenience store out by the interstate.

I must have gotten that Bambi-in-headlights look because my wife hissed, "What is it? What's wrong? Who is that?"

So I covered the receiver and told her Jesus was going to arrive in eight minutes, and she ran out of the room and started giving guidance to the kids—in that effective way that Marine drill instructors give guidance to recruits....

My mind was already racing with what needed to be done in the next eight—no seven—minutes so Jesus wouldn't think we were reprobate loser slobs.

I turned off the TV in the den, which was blaring some weird scary movie I'd been half watching. But I could still hear screams from our bedroom, so I turned off the reality show it was tuned to. Plus, I turned off the kids' set out on the sun porch, because I didn't want to have to explain *Jon & Kate Plus Eight* to Jesus, either, six minutes from now.

My wife had already thinned out the magazines that had been accumulating on the coffee table. She put *Christianity Today* on top for a good first impression. Five minutes to go.

I looked out the front window, but the yard actually looked great thanks to my long, hard work, so I let it go. What could I improve in four minutes anyway?

I did notice the mail had come, so I ran out to grab it.

Mostly it was Netflix envelopes and a bunch of catalogs tied into recent purchases, so I stuffed it back in the box. Jesus doesn't need to get the wrong idea—three minutes from now—about how much on-line shopping we do.

I ran back in and picked up a bunch of shoes left by the door. Tried to stuff them in the front closet, but it was overflowing with heavy coats and work coats and snow coats and pretty coats and raincoats and extra coats. We live in the South; why'd we buy so many coats? I squeezed the shoes in with two minutes to go.

I plumped up sofa pillows, my wife tossed dishes into the sink, I scolded the kids, and she shooed the dog. With one minute left I realized something important: Getting ready for a visit from Jesus is not an eight-minute job.

Then the doorbell rang.<sup>2</sup>

There were several announcements regarding the first advent of Christ. However, there will be no eight-minute warning prior to the second advent of Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians and said in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2:

**<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.**

Just as a thief gives no warning about when he will strike, so Christ will arrive unannounced, like a thief, for his second advent.

## Conclusion

As we celebrate the first advent of Christ tonight, let me encourage you to be prepared for his second advent by turning to him in faith and repentance. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2009/november/7112309.html>.

# Mission Statement

The Mission Statement of the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church  
is:

*To bring people to Jesus Christ  
and membership in his church family,  
develop them to Christlike maturity,  
equip them for their ministry in the church  
and life mission in the world,  
in order to magnify God's name.*

## Sermons by Rev. Freddy Fritz

This sermon, and other sermons, by the Rev. Freddy Fritz can  
be found at:

1. [www.tampabaypresbyterian.org/sermons](http://www.tampabaypresbyterian.org/sermons).
2. [www.sermoncentral.com/contributors/freddy-fritz-sermons-11181.asp](http://www.sermoncentral.com/contributors/freddy-fritz-sermons-11181.asp).
3. [www.sermonaudio.com/source\\_detail.asp?sourceid=Fred-dyFritz](http://www.sermonaudio.com/source_detail.asp?sourceid=Fred-dyFritz).

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