

Questions

1. What three words do you associate or are feeling with Advent/ Advent season (panic is permissible!)?
2. How important is it to you to know that Jesus will return?
3. Why do you think Mark places details about His return next to discussion of the temple destruction?
4. Are there any 'temples' in your life or mine which either help or hinder the foundation of our faith?
5. What does St John's Stoke Church mean to you (both the building and the people) and how would we cope without it?
6. How do we both watch for Christ's return and be wary?
7. Can you sum up the wonder of Christmas for you in 140/280 characters?

Have a wonderful Christmas!

life in all its fullness

John 10:10



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Sunday 3rd December 2017

sermon notes

Mark 13:24-37

Watch!

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WATCH

1. Jesus is coming; Jesus came; Jesus is coming
Living between the two Advents

2. Advent
Latin - Adventus - "arrival, appearance"
Celebrating Christ's first appearance
Looking forward to his future appearance

3. Mark chapter 13

- a) Context
 - During Passion Week
 - Discussion on the temple v1-4
 - Destruction of the temple in 70AD
- b) Confusion
 - v30 - meaning of "this generation"
- c) 2 Peter 3:8-9
 - Parallel passages - Matthew 24:1-51 and Luke 21:5-38
- d) Paul's view - 2 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11
- e) Change v32
- f) Church
 - Early church had Jewish basis
 - Importance of the temple
 - Foundations of the building against fundamental foundations of faith

g) Clarity
What are the fundamental foundations of our faith?

4. Advent attitude:

- a) Watch
 - v32-37 - keyword
 - No one knows the time
 - Be alert but not inert
 - Be watchful but not wasteful
 - Use time given wisely
 - "What I say to you, I say to everyone; Watch!"
- b) Wary
 - Danger of trying to predict Christ's return
 - Looking for specific signs
 - Look to Christ and Christ alone
 - Be watchful but also be wary
- c) Wonder
 - The vulnerable baby Christ
 - The journey from the crib to the cross
 - A 'sat-nav saviour' - destination eternity with God through Christ
 - "Christ is coming; Christ came; Christ is coming"
 - "Living between the two Advents"

