



A place where heaven and earth meet,
where people encounter God's generosity
and healing presence.

www.thebeachchurch.com

Pastor Jim Coyl
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

Welcome

Advent Candle Lighting - Week 1 – The Candle of Hope

Leader: Today we light the first candle of Advent — the Candle of Hope.
We place our hope in God's promise of a world made new,
and in the One who comes to bring light into the darkness.

Reader: *"Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." — Matthew 24:44*

Leader: As we light this candle, we remember that our hope is in Christ.

People (together): We wait with hope for the One who is coming.

(Light the first candle.)

Prayer:

God of hope, light the candle of hope in our hearts.
Help us to trust in Your promises and to watch for Your coming.
Renew our spirits, that we may live as people of hope,

sharing the light of Christ in a world that longs for new beginnings.
Amen.

Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Scripture Reading Matthew 24:36-44

24:36 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

24:37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

24:38 For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,

24:39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man.

24:40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.

24:41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left.

24:42 Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

24:43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

24:44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Gloria Patri

Sermon "A Great Awakening" Rev. Jim Coyl

Pastoral Payer and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Benediction

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Awakening to Hope
Matthew 24:36-44 — First Sunday of Advent

Advent begins not with the quiet charm of the manger, but with the watchful words of Jesus: “Keep awake... for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.” These verses shake us gently—but firmly—out of the ordinary rhythms of life. They remind us that God’s kingdom is not an idea to admire but a reality that draws near at any moment. Advent hope is, therefore, not passive. It is an awakened hope, alert and expectant.

G. K. Chesterton once wrote that “the world will never starve for want of wonders; but only for want of wonder.” Advent renews that wonder. It teaches us to look again—to see the traces of God’s coming in the commonplace, to watch for Christ in the interruptions as much as in the beautiful moments. Hope opens our eyes.

Jesus’ call to stay awake is not meant to burden us with fear, but to free us from indifference. We stay awake because God is at work. We stay awake because Christ’s coming—both in the manger long ago and in glory yet to come—changes everything. And we stay awake because hope is not wishful thinking; it is trust in a God who keeps promises.

As we light the first candle of Advent, may its small flame remind us that even the faintest glimmer of God’s presence can awaken a weary heart. Let us watch, not anxiously, but attentively—believing that the Lord is nearer than we imagine.

Come, Lord Jesus. Awaken us to hope.

Daily Lectionary Readings

Monday, December 01, 2025: Psalm 124; Genesis 8:1-19; Romans 6:1-11;

Tuesday, December 02, 2025: Psalm 124; Genesis 9:1-17; Hebrews 11:32-40;

Wednesday, December 03, 2025: Psalm 124; Isaiah 54:1-10; Matthew 24:23-35;

Thursday, December 04, 2025: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 1:12-17, 21-26;

Friday, December 05, 2025: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 30:19-26; Acts 13:16-25;

Saturday, December 06, 2025: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 40:1-11; John 1:19-28;

Events in December



Saturday, December 13 – Annual Meeting & Christmas Dinner

4:30 p.m. – Annual Meeting - Approval of 2026 Budget and Council Members followed by Our Christmas Dinner Celebration! Enjoy good food, laughter, and holiday joy with your church family.

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 4:30pm

A beloved tradition of lessons, carols, candlelight, and communion as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Come and rejoice in the light that shines in the darkness.

Finding Christ in Bedford Falls: The Reconciled Life of George Bailey

A Three-Part Advent Discussion Series

Join us for a heartwarming and thought-provoking discussion series this Advent season as we journey with George Bailey through *It's a Wonderful Life* and discover how his story reflects the hope, grace, and redemption found in Christ.

Over three consecutive Wednesdays — **December 3, 10, and 17, from Noon to 1:00, in Randle Hall**, at The Beach Church (920 Panferio Drive) — We'll gather to watch key scenes from the beloved classic film and reflect together on the biblical and theological themes they reveal. Light snacks and beverages will be provided.



Whether this season fills you with joy or feels heavy on your heart, you'll find a warm welcome, good company, and meaningful conversation here.

Come for all three sessions if you can — but if you can only attend one or two, that's perfectly fine. There's a place for you at the table.

Giving as Prayer

Read Matthew 6:19–21

Advent invites us to slow down and make room for Christ. In a season often marked by busyness and buying, Jesus reminds us, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Giving in Advent is more than a financial choice—it is a spiritual practice. When we pray about our giving, we see our resources as part of God’s work. As Richard Rohr says, “everything belongs”; our gifts, offered freely, become a quiet act of worship and an expression of trust.

John Wesley urged believers to “gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can,” seeing generosity as participation in God’s mission. Viewed through that lens, every part of our church budget has purpose: light in the sanctuary, warmth in fellowship, ministries that reach beyond our walls. Each gift helps make space for the Gospel.

As the year ends, may we consider how our giving can support this mission. Each act of generosity—large or small—helps our church shine as a beacon of hope, where Christ’s light breaks into the darkness.

Let your giving this Advent be an act of peace, rooted in prayer and gratitude, preparing the way of the Lord.

Personal Worship Option

God of grace and generosity, quiet my heart as Advent begins. Teach me to give as an act of prayer and peace. Use my gifts, and the gifts of our church, to make room for Your love in the world. Through Christ, the Light of all people. Amen.