

Monday, December 4

### **Joyful Expectation.**

*“Surely, I am coming soon.” Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus!*  
Rev. 22:20 (NRSV)

In northern communities, the early summer was always a time of great anticipation. The whole community was waiting for the arrival of the summer resupply ship. (In Yellowknife it was called the Beer Barge, for obvious reasons!) Its arrival was a time of great rejoicing. The winter was over; the waiting was at an end. Fresh supplies would soon be unloaded and shortages would be a memory. New things would be experienced and in those places where there was no regular air service, new people would be arriving. It was a time of new beginnings.

For Christians, Advent is a similar time of expectation and anticipation. We remember how, long ago, the Jewish people felt a deep longing for the long-awaited Messiah who would restore the Kingdom and begin a new age. (Although not in the way many anticipated.) Jesus did indeed come to usher in a new beginning. Each year in retrospective expectation we look forward to the celebration of Christmas and the annual renewal of our faith in Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ, as our Saviour and Lord. As we await that wonderful Christmas season let us take time amidst the excitement and glitter to remember what it is really about and with thankful hearts prepare room to receive him once again.

**Grant, O Lord, that we who once again prepare for the commemoration of the coming of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, may so direct our hearts that we may truly also receive him as our Lord. Amen.**

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