

ADVENT MESSAGE

“They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”(Acts 1:10-11 NIV)

With these words of assurance and hope, we welcome all Christians, with particular reference to the Faithful of our Diocese, to the Advent season, a Season of dual importance, carrying the messages of remembrance and expectation.

As members of the Universal Church, Advent reminds us that over 2000 years ago, at a time when religion of different sorts was flourishing, and men and women were profusely religious but with little Godliness. When people left the creator and were worshipping the created; when the voiceless and powerless were crushed by the vocal and powerful. When it seemed all hope was lost and all was perishing, the Love of God was made manifest, that "He gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."(John 3:16). Jesus lived and exemplified true Godliness, Himself being The Way, The Truth, and The Life. He gave voice to the voiceless and power to the powerless. He restored the hope of the perishing and promised all who continue in this new way of life, His ever abiding presence, comfort, and hope here on earth, but above all, a place and eternal life in His heavenly Kingdom.

Therefore, as we consider the present situation of things in our world today, where religion is exceedingly flourishing at the same rate as ungodliness; when most people worship just about every other thing but God the Creator; where hatred, selfish governance, and materialism have become the guiding principles of even the religious; we are reminded that nothing but only the Advent of Jesus Christ in all facets of our life can restore calm and hope and prepare us as we expectantly wait for the second advent. We must be reminded that the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ will be as a King, not a Child; as a Judge, not a Savior. And not as a visitor, but a Rewarder.

So all who look forward to the second coming of our Lord must give themselves to the teaching and study of His word and worship Him in spirit and in truth.

We must heed the call of our recent Diocesan synod, **understanding that our struggles are not to be “do or die”**. There is absolutely nothing ahead of us that is worth dying for. Our labor and toiling should not be made to maim or harm, but encourage others. We must run away from whatever would make others weep or suffer. We must live our life knowing fully well that **“We Are Nothing But Dust And To Dust We Will Surely Return”**. **“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me to give to each one according to his work.”** (Rev. 22:12).

It is therefore our prayer that the expectations of all who faithfully await the second coming of our Lord never be cut short.

Wishing you all a Spiritually rewarding Advent Season.

! And to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before His throne; to the only wise God be all glory honor and majesty now till the end of the age. Amen.

**+Nath, Aba Ngwa North
Advent 2020.**