

## **Welcome to St Peter's UCC Virtual Worship Service!**

Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) to catch a new service at 10am each Sunday! We also share a [podcast](#) weekly of the scripture readings and sermon.

**Open Holy Communion.** We have communion the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month and we invite all Christians and seekers after God to partake of the Lord's Supper with us regardless of denominational background. To participate from home, please have a small cup of juice, wine, or other beverage you are comfortable with, and a piece of bread with you. When Rev. Lanford prompts us to "take and eat" (and "drink"), then we will all do so - physically separated, but together in spirit.

**Who We Are.** St. Peter's is an Open and Affirming congregation. We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie for over 152 years. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who loves everyone, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we **welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.

**Attendance.** We would like to get to know you better, too! If you are comfortable doing so, please put your first name and last initial in the comments section under the video, and where you are watching us from!

**Donations.** We have several options for giving, and your donation helps support our church and its various ministries. Now more than ever, every contribution (large or small) is important to keep us going:

- **Text Your Gift.** Text the amount you want to donate to **844-997-2346**.
- **PayPal.** Visit **PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie** Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peters.
- **Vanco Give+ App.** Download the Vanco GIVE+ app from **iTunes** or **Google Play**, put in the church's zip code 60077 and select St. Peter's from the drop down. Set up an account with a password (or process as a guest), select your donation frequency, amount, and add payment info. There is also an option here to offset the processing fee.
- **Mail a Check.** We are collecting mail daily, and depositing regularly throughout the week.

**Contact Us.** You can email us – we are accessing email from home during the Shelter-in-Place order. Or call and leave a voicemail, we are picking up messages regularly while we are not in the building. Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for daily updates and messages, and check our website for additional details, weekly announcements, and more.

### **St. Peter's United Church of Christ**

8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077

(Oakton and Laramie)

**847-673-8166**

[www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): [revlanford@gmail.com](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

Laura Olson (Office Manager): [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Ben Westphal (Music Director): [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ**  
**Oakton Street and Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL**  
[www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)  
**847-673-8166**

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**Sunday, November 29, 2020 10:15 AM**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE**                      "Personet Hodie"    arr. Phil Lehenbauer

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**              Jenn Schneider

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor:                      Today is the beginning of Advent -- the  
   preparation time for celebrating Christ's  
   birth.

***Congregation: We are here because God's promises  
to our ancestors came true when  
Jesus was born.***

P:                              God's promise is kept each Sunday when  
   we worship because even if not all-

gathered, Christ is in our midst --  
Emmanuel.

**C:**           ***God will keep the promise to come  
again in glory.***

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

P:       Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven." Let us pray together in confession of our having missed the mark.

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, You know that we have not always done Your will in the choices we've made, the language we've used, the ways we have sought to evade dealing with reality, or in how we sometimes treat those we love. We are fallible creatures who generally are more interested in pointing out how someone else messed up than in doing our own inventory. We come to You for forgiveness, and we do this in the spirit of this day in Advent; we come to You in hope! In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah... I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts...they shall all know me... for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31: 31ff).

The days are surely coming! In Christ there is a new covenant of grace and indwelling Holy Spirit, forgiving us and transforming how we treat each other. That’s a miracle of mercy and power, do you agree?

**All: Yes we do! Thanks be to God our Savior!**

\*HYMN:

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#88 (v. 1)

88

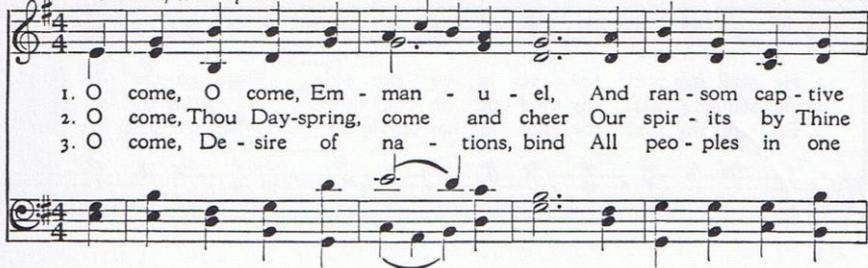
# Our Lord Jesus Christ

VENI EMMANUEL

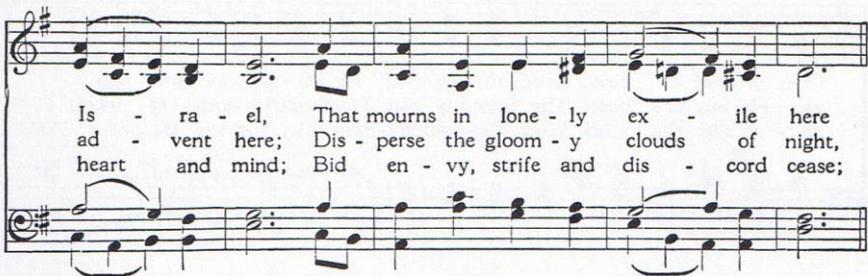
From Latin, 12th century  
Stanzas 1 and 2 Tr. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1851  
Stanza 3 Tr. HENRY S. COFFIN, 1916

8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. Ancient plain song, 13th century (Mode I)

*Unison, with spirit*



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine  
3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one



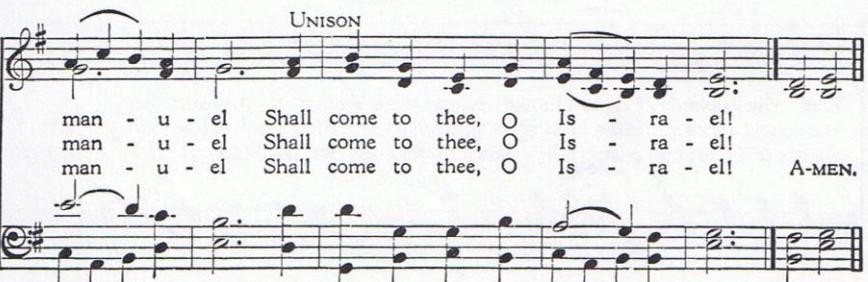
Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife and dis - cord cease;

HARMONY



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

UNISON



man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el! A-MEN.

## LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Lighting the Candle of Hope this morning and sharing some thoughts on what hope means to her is Olivia Altmayer.

### RESPONSE: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

(v. 1)

## Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240

Traditional Yiddish Folk Tune

Lyrics by Wayne L. Wold

Am Em/G F Dm



1. Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah:  
 2. Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:  
 3. Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:  
 4. Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:

3 E Am/E E Am E/B



let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He \_\_\_ shall bring sal -  
 let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He \_\_\_ shall feed the  
 let the light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift \_\_\_ your heads and  
 let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He \_\_\_ is com - ing,

6 Am/C Dm Dm/F Dm



va - tion to Is - ra - el, God - ful - fills \_\_\_ the  
 flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead \_\_\_ them  
 lift high the gate - way for the King \_\_\_ of  
 tell the glad tid - ings, Let your lights \_\_\_ be

8 E(sus4) E E(sus4) E Am



prom - ise.  
 home - ward.  
 glo - ry.  
 shin - ing!

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Ben Westphal

Old Testament:

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Epistle:

First Corinthians 1:3-9

*The following solo is our first introduction to this Advent's Hymn of the Month. Thank you to Travis Swinford! Next week we will continue learning it.*

# SPECIAL MUSIC: "Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"

## Solo by Travis Swinford

ELW 242

### Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn

Marty Haugen

♩ = 63

The musical score is written in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

1. A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, For  
 2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, When  
 4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
 man - uel comes a sing - ing, His hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, As morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, The ris - ing sun shall

now he is born, Be - hold the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, Yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, So warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, To bring all hearts to -  
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul, And hymns of lov - ing  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, The lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer, And love, our end - less

geth - er, He o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door, And  
 kind - ness, THE thun - der of his an - them roll  
 won - der, The weak be raised a - bove the strong, And  
 sto - ry, May God fill ev - 'ry day we share, And

Tag at end with ritard

lives not in - side us for - ev - er,  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness,  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der,  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

12/19/2018

**GOSPEL:**

Mark 13: 24-37

**PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (^debts^)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil;  
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever. Amen**

**A CALL TO OFFERING**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a Shepherd, I would bring a Lamb.  
If I were a magi, I would do my part.  
Yet what can I give Him? Give my heart.  
*(Written by Christina Rossetti)*

**HOMILY**

“Hunting for Hope”

**HYMN:** "Faithful God, We're Watching"  
(Sing to the tune of "Onward, Christian Soldiers," w/o the  
refrain)

**Faithful God, we're watching / knowing You will  
bless.**

**Grace and peace You've promised / In our dark  
distress.**

**As we face our suffering / Glory intervenes  
In our Savior's coming / to our human scenes.**

**Heaven and earth may falter / yet Your word is  
true,**

**Granting strength and guidance / making all things  
new.**

**Jesus is revealing / gifts that You impart,  
Drawing us together / Claiming every heart.**

**Wide awake and watchful / we prepare the way  
In this Advent season / for that glorious day  
When You claim all people / for Your very own,  
When the Christ is honored / and Your will is  
known.**

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Press).*

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

P: Advent is an invitation. God bids us meet God face-to-face. And while the encounter is one we rehearse every year, it promises to be a most holy event!

***C: Together, we keep watch.***

***Together, we prepare.***

**ALL: Together, we journey in hope, with the light of God's love showing us the way!**

**\*POSTLUDE:** "Veni Emmanuel" arr. Charles Callahan

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### FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Good Morning!** We begin a new church year today with the first Sunday of Advent. We watch for Jesus' advent, or coming, among us: his return on the last day, and his presence with us now. Welcome.

**We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church.** No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside front cover for details on how to donate.

**Thanks to Rich Schneider for putting up the sanctuary Christmas tree and nativity set a week ago Saturday afternoon, and Ben and Charlie who decorated the tree Monday!**

**Next Sunday we light the Candle of Peace.** David Iannotti agreed to share some of his thoughts on Peace and light its Advent Candle.

**Thanks to Ben for finding the new music for today and Advent Sundays upcoming,** and to Travis Swinford for singing "Awake, Awake , and Greet the New Morn" as we start today to learn it! According to the schedule, next week's Lector is Barb Todd.

**Thanks again to all** who supported the 10,000 Villagers fundraiser! Appreciation also goes to everyone who Zoomed into the Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service last Tuesday evening.

**We are very sorry to report to you that June Peterson left this life November 23rd.** Our church has lost a very beloved long-standing Christian and her family, their "north star" for decades. She has been in hospice for some time, and recently relocated to Mandy and Mike McDonald's home in Mundelein where she could be with family for the last days, as she was. Her wake and funeral were last Wednesday.

**Wishes for a blessed birthday** head out to Sandy Guenther, Louie Lopez, Peggy Reins McCoy and Ken Burmeister, and for God's favor an anniversary marked by Phil and Nancy Lindroth!

**FUNDrive Soft Goods Collection going on now!** No better time than quarantine to clean out your closets, basements, storage and garages for soft goods! We get paid by the pound for soft goods such as clothes, shoes, belts, purses, linens, stuffed animals, bedding and more! Bags go in the gym and call us to schedule drop off times.

**Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> is our next Village Inn food fundraiser.** Take a break from holiday shopping and support 2 great local businesses. Anyone can order via carryout and delivery, and call them to find out their in-dining options. Just remember to mention our fundraiser to your order taker!

**We apologize for letting 2020** and its suspension of routine structure prevent us from communicating anything regarding our traditional yearly collection of winter hats, cookies, cans of hot cocoa mix, and more, for the Night Ministry. Right now the plan is to hold our collection for the Night Ministry in January (as our original pre-COVID 2020 plan for 2021 was, but not adequately communicated). An email from the Ministry told us they receive gifts of winter hats, gloves and scarves through March (cookies were not mentioned although I'd mentioned them). We ask you folks if a December drive for hats / cocoa mix / scarves / gloves / cookies is still do-able this year instead. Micah 6:8 meets soon and will discuss this too.

**Holiday Meals for needy area families from the Jewel Food Store at 5667 Touhy in Niles is on and donations are needed.**

As you might expect, the need is up this year! Laura has been reached out to by the various community partners we work with who benefit from these meals. If you are able please go to the Jewel and make a donation! Most of our meals go to Skokie School District 69 which has a very high rate of low income families, then UCAN which helps youth in crises become future leaders, and Pastor Cranford’s ministries in Evanston. We’d sure like to make it a very happy holiday season for all!! Thanks so much for your support. You can go to the cashiers or service desk and write a check, you don’t have to shop.

The Micah 6:8 Committee meets over Zoom later today.

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**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Mandy Steegmueller
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard

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# POINSETTIAS



**If you didn't hear, we won't be doing our usual Poinsettia order this year. Due to COVID we can't be certain on how our Christmas service will play out yet. Instead, our Women's Guild will be generously providing poinsettias for our altar, in honor of all members and friends of St. Peter's. As a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone for all your extra care, support, thoughtfulness and concern for St. Peter's UCC during this unprecedented time, we'd like to offer you the chance to dedicate one of these poinsettias in honor and/or in memory of whomever you'd like. Just fill out the form below and return it to the office by December 6<sup>th</sup>! You can email your info, mail it or call it in to the office. We'll still be doing an In honor/In Memory insert for our Christmas worship and we'll also include it in the January Announcer!**

Name:

Phone #:

In Honor Of:

In Memory Of:

Now through January

WINTER

SOFT GOODS

FUNDDRIVE



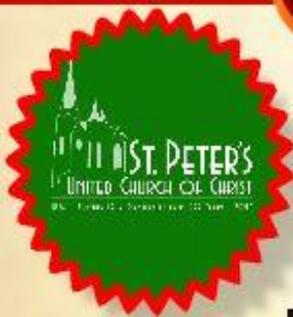
ST. PETER'S  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WELCOMING  
CONGREGATION  
IN ILLINOIS

DROP OFF AT  
THE GYM  
8013  
LARAME,  
SKOKIE OR  
CALL TO  
SCHEDULE  
(847)  
673-8166



WE NEED  
CLOTHING  
LINENS  
BEDDING  
STUFFED  
TOYS  
ACCESSORIES  
AND MORE



VillageInn  
PIZZERIA  
SPORTS BAR & GRILL



# Village Inn Food Fundraiser

December 10th 11am - 11pm

# Village Inn Pizzeria

8050 Lincoln Ave.  
Skokie, IL 60077

Mention St. Peter's UCC when ordering and we get 20% of your total

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
(YEAR B)

November 29, 2020

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Where Are You, God?

In the book, *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*, published at the beginning of this year by The Pilgrim Press, ten women writers responded to the 150 Biblical psalms with words of their own. Not a retelling of the psalms or an alternate translation, instead the book is a reply to those ancient words, engaging them for today.

Editor Martha Spong reports that over the course of the twelve months of 2019, she “watched a book idea that had lived only in my hopes grow from a conversation in an airport in January to a manuscript being sent to the printer in December. I had the joy of inviting nine women to work with me and the delight of hearing a yes from each of them. We all felt excited, and daunted, to engage with the psalms personally, yet also for a future audience of readers. Some of us do this weekly in crafting liturgy; here we wrote not for the collective voices of a congregation, but out of our particular contexts and experiences. It is an offering both to God and readers in this season of extreme division, full of passion and persistence. My hope is that readers will recognize themselves in the words of our mouths and be inspired to articulate their own psalms for the struggle.”

Like the psalms themselves, the poems and prayers in *The Words of Her Mouth* are both deeply personal and widely universal and address a range of human experience and emotions. In response to Psalm 88, United Church of Christ Pastor Rev. Jennifer Garrison Brownell writes,

“Here are my tears,” you said. “Eat. And these are my tears, too. Drink.”

“Too salty!” we cried. “We can’t eat this sorrow! We can’t drink this suffering! We will die!”

You heard our protests and you lifted the plate and the cup anyway.

Most of us turned away. But some of us stayed to eat and drink with you, and we did not die as we had feared.

In truth, we lived. In truth, we live still.

Spong, Martha, ed. *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*.

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8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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## SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### ISAIAH 64:1-9

- <sup>1</sup>“O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
- <sup>2</sup>◦ as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
- <sup>3</sup> When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
- <sup>4</sup> From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.
- <sup>5</sup> You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.◦
- <sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
- <sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls on your name,

or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered<sup>o</sup> us into the hand of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup> Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup> Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.”

### **FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:3-9**

Paul wrote, “<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

“<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my<sup>o</sup> God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of<sup>o</sup> Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

### **MARK 13:24-37**

Jesus said, <sup>24</sup>“But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,  
<sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great  
power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his  
elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of  
heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch  
becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is  
near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know  
that he<sup>o</sup> is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation  
will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven  
and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels  
in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert;<sup>o</sup>  
for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man  
going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in  
charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on  
the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the  
master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at  
cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he  
comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”