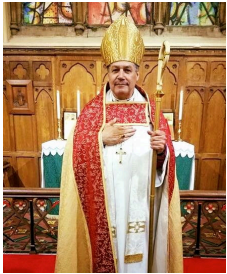




**ARCHBISHOP SHANE B. JANZEN**  
**PRIMATE OF THE TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN COMMUNION**

*“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*



AS the Church enters the liturgical season of Advent it won't have passed your notice that many of the stores and commercial advertisers seem to have been weeks ahead of us. Before the task of raking our autumn leaves was complete shopping centres began playing Christmas music. The decorations are up and the mood has been set to have us focus on this most sentimental of holidays, not for any religious purpose, but to empty our bank accounts as we shop our way towards December 25th.

Christmas can be for many a nostalgic time of year, filled with warmth and peace, family and friends. But it can also be for some a time of struggle, sadness, even isolation. On a positive note, many in the secular world do turn their thoughts at this time of the year toward those less fortunate. Around the world we see the challenges of homelessness, refugees, economic want, violence and terrorism. It is into this very world that our Lord Jesus Christ entered; and it is His Church that has been given the mission of offering hope and salvation in His Name. A mission which has both a spiritual and a material component.

On the material level, we offer our time and treasure to assist others in need, locally and internationally. Through the missionary arm of the International Anglican Fellowship we provide support for churches, parishes and missions across the Traditional Anglican Communion. Similarly, through our local parishes and missions we offer places of worship, counsel, shelter, food, and fellowship to those struggling with emotional and financial difficulties – a mission which goes beyond the Seasons of Advent and Christmas.

As Christians we know too that the holy Season of Advent has a spiritual dimension, a spiritual importance. We begin the season not with “Joy to the World”, but rather “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”. Advent means “the coming”, or “the arrival”. In Advent we anticipate and prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in time and eternity. Advent involves the anticipation of both a past and a future event. The Latin word *adventus* from which we get the name of the Season means “the coming”, but itself is a translation of the Greek word *Parousia*, which refers to the Second Coming of Christ. Thus Advent includes a time of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child in time, and penitential preparation for the return of our Lord at the end of time, when He will come to judge the living and the dead.

All of the Scripture lessons chosen for the Season of Advent shout with urgency: prepare yourselves! Focus on what is important. By examination of conscience, by prayer, and meditation, by taking our part in the corporate worship of the Church, and in acts of good will, we are able focus on what truly matters. We blend our preparations of home and hearth with those of spirit and soul. We show forth the faith that underlies our good works. In a world searching for meaning and truth, the Season of Advent properly celebrated can offer a powerful witness of the saving love of the Redeemer Jesus Christ.

I pray each of you will use this holy Season as a time of witness and preparation for the coming in time and eternity of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. A blessed, prayerful and joyous Advent to you all!

*+Shane*