

# SECOND ADVENT

PASTOR JEFF ALEXANDER + DECEMBER 9, 2018

Why do Christians celebrate four weeks of Advent every December?

To PREPARE our lives for the coming of Jesus...*both* His first *and* His second advent.

A MESSENGER named John was sent by God to make people ready for Jesus' first coming.

## **MALACHI 3:1**

*"I will send My messenger, who will prepare the way before Me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to His temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.*

The Word of God is the messenger we've received that tells us *both* of what Christ HAS DONE already *and* of what Christ WILL DO when He comes again.

## ***As our messenger, God's Word...***

- REFINES US like silver that is precious to the One who owns it.

### **MALACHI 3:2-3**

*But who can endure the day of His coming? Who can stand when He appears? For He will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness.*

- RENEWS US by turning us toward Him in faith and toward our neighbor in love.

### **MALACHI 3:7**

*"Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty.*

- READIES US for the Day when Christ will complete His good work in our lives.

### **PHILIPPIANS 1:6**

*Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*