November 29, 2026

Sermon Outline: Advent 1: God Has Heard Your Prayers

Text: Malachi 4:1-6/Luke 1:5-17
Theme: *God hears. God remembers. God still comes.*

Introduction: The Pain and Promise of Waiting

- Advent is a season of hope and expectation.
- Zechariah and Elizabeth teach us how to trust God in seasons of waiting.
- Main Message: **Even when God seems silent, He is still at work.**

I. God Hears Prayers That Seem Forgotten

Key Verse: "Your prayer has been heard." (Luke 1:13)

Questions

1. Have you ever prayed for something for a long time without seeing an answer?
2. What makes it difficult to continue trusting God while waiting?

Application

- Bring your unanswered prayers to God again.
- Trust that God hears every prayer, every tear, and every burden.
- Keep praying even when you cannot see results.

II. God's Delays Are Not God's Denials

Key Truth: God's timing is different from our timing.

Questions

1. Why do we often assume that delay means God is saying "no"?
2. How has God worked through waiting periods in your life?

Application

- Replace frustration with faith.
- Remember that God specializes in "impossible" situations.
- Trust God's timing rather than your timetable.

III. God Still Uses Ordinary and Overlooked People

Key Truth: God values faithfulness more than status or success.

Questions

1. Have you ever felt too old, too weak, or too ordinary for God to use?
2. What gifts or experiences can God use in your life today?

Application

- Reject the lie that your best days are behind you.
- Offer your time, wisdom, prayers, and service to God.
- Be available for God's purpose in this season of life.

IV. God Calls Us to Prepare the Way

Key Truth: John the Baptist prepared people for Jesus; we are called to do the same.

Questions

1. What does it mean to "prepare the way" for Jesus today?
2. How can our church point others to Christ during Advent?

Application

- Show kindness and encouragement.
- Practice forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Share the hope of Christ with someone this week.

Conclusion

As we begin Advent, remember:

- **God hears.**
- **God remembers.**
- **God still comes.**

Take-Home Challenge

This week, identify one prayer you have nearly stopped praying and bring it before God again. Ask Him to renew your faith, strengthen your hope, and prepare your heart for the coming of Christ.

Closing Thought:

The same God who remembered Zechariah and Elizabeth remembers you today. Therefore, prepare your heart, for the King is coming.