

## 1 December 2013 - First Sunday of Advent.

**Readings:** Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11–14; Mt. 24:36–44.

**Theme:** *It's time!* – Romans 13:11, “And do this, **understanding the present time...**”



**INTRO:** “Does anyone really know what time it is?...” Mark K. Anderson, “According to fundamental laws of physics, time is just another coordinate -- hash marks along a line with scarcely a preferred direction or flow. Yet the mind perceives time as an irreversible stream, moving from past to future, experienced in the present... How can science bridge the gap?” Metod Saniga... Jesus the ultimate “meditator”... **John 8:58**, “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” Chronos versus Kairos.

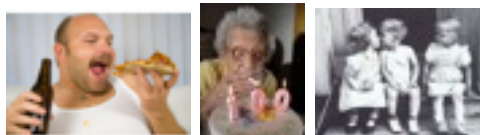


### I. TO WAKE UP!

**Romans 13:11**, *The Day Is Near*. “And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to **wake up from your slumber**, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”



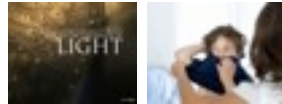
### II. TO GET READY!



**A. Put off.** Romans 13:12, “The night is nearly over; **the day** is almost here. So let us **put aside** the deeds of darkness...”

**Romans 13:13**, “Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, **not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.**”

**Timothy Keller**, *The Meaning of Marriage*.



**B. Put on. Romans 13:12**, “and **put on** the armour of light.”

**Romans 13:14**, “Rather, **clothe yourselves** with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.”



### **III. TO GO UP!**

**Isaiah 2:3**, “Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us **go up to the mountain of the LORD**, to the temple of the God of Jacob.’”



**A. To WORSHIP. Psalm 122:1, 4**, “I rejoiced with those who said to me, “**Let us go to the house of the LORD.**”

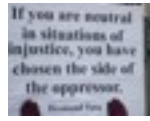
**John 4:21, 23**, “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, **a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth**, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.”



**B. To be ONE. V. 2.** “**all nations will stream to it.**”



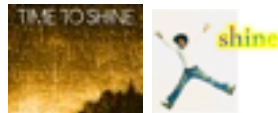
**C. To be TAUGHT. V. 3, “He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.”**



**D. To establish JUSTICE. V. 4, “He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples.”**



**E. To work for PEACE. V. 4, “Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”**



**To SHINE! V. 5, “Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.” Ephesians 5:14, “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”**



**CONCLUSION: 1 Chronicles 12:23, 32, “These are the numbers of the men armed for battle who came to David at Hebron to turn Saul’s kingdom over to him, as the LORD had said... from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command.”**