



The Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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Advent Message From The Presiding Bishop

Beloved Methodist people,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our coming Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

As we enter this holy Season of Advent, we are invited once again to pause, to breathe, and to pay attention to the God who draws near. Advent is more than a countdown to Christmas; it is a sacred time of watching, waiting, and renewing our hope. In a world marked by anxiety, uncertainty, and deep longing for justice, Advent calls us to lift our eyes beyond the shadows and to remember that God's light still breaks into our lives.

Advent teaches us to expect God's movement—even in unlikely places.

Just as the Christ Child was born not in a palace but in a humble stable, God continues to appear in the overlooked corners of our communities, in acts of compassion, courage, and solidarity. This season challenges us to be attentive to God's quiet work in our own struggles, in our nation, and across our Connexion.

Advent also calls us to prepare our hearts.

John the Baptist's cry: "Prepare the way of the Lord"—is not a call to frantic busyness but to spiritual clarity. In a time when our world is fractured by inequality, gender-based violence, corruption, and despair, preparing the way of the Lord means recommitting ourselves to justice, mercy, and healing. It means creating room for Christ to be born again in our lives, our homes, and our church.

As the Methodist people of Southern Africa, may this season renew our courage to be a community of hope-bearers; a church that sings God's song in difficult times; a people who labour for reconciliation and serve with humility. May we be instruments of peace in our families, workplaces, congregations, and society.

As we light the Advent candles—Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love—may each flame remind us that darkness does not have the final word. Christ, our Light, is coming. And in His coming, we find the assurance that God, is still with us and God is still at work.

May the blessing of Emmanuel—God with us—rest upon you.

A Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations

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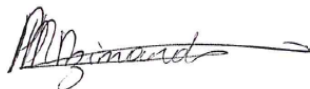
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May your Advent be filled with quiet wonder, renewed faith, and the deep joy of knowing that the One we await is already near.

Grace and peace to you this Advent Season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pumla Nzimande', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Rev. Pumla Nzimande
Presiding Bishop