***Revelation 1:7-8 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. 8“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”***

This morning, we lit two candles – the candle of Peace and the candle of Love. Advent has been a celebration of Faith, Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love. Jesus came as a Babe in the Manger and He is coming again as Conquering King. His coming will be in less than a blink, as fast as lightning moves from east to west (Matthew 24:27), like a thief (2 Peter 3:10). In Acts 1, the men, almost surely angels, said Christ would come again in the manner that He left, in the clouds. We look forward to, we long for His coming, that we may go home and be with Him as He promised.

 Revelation 1:7 *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen****.*** He, Jesus, is coming with clouds. This is very similar to what Jesus said Himself in Matthew 24:30 *Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*Jesus Himself says – this will not be a secret thing. All the tribes will see. Revelation 1:7 says every eye will see. And there will be mourning. Imagine the mourning if you are left behind when the rapture occurs. But imagine the celebration if you have believed, when you meet Jesus face to face. Revelation 22:12, Jesus speaking again, says - *And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.* Like a thief, quickly, fast as lightning – when Jesus appears, the only choice that matters is the choice we made before His appearing to place our faith and hope in Him.

 Revelation 1:8 says – *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”* Jesus confirms here – I and My Father are One – Revelation 22:13, Jesus Himself speaking, says *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.* Isaiah 44:6, written over seven hundred years before Christ, says - *Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.* Who is – that’s present, was – that’s past, and is to come – that’s future. Eternal. When we read this, our mind must go to the eternal nature of Jesus Christ. It must go to when Moses asked God, “What shall I say when they ask What is His name? Exodus 3:14 says - *And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.* The Eternal One – I Am.

 In Colossians 3:12-15 we read *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on* ***love****, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the* ***peace*** *of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.* As we approach Christmas, as we approach the completion of this Advent Season, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, let us put on love, the bond of perfection, and let peace rule our hearts. Let us be thankful that one day soon, just as the lightning flashes from the east to the west, our Redeemer will draw near and we will be forever with our Savior in glory.

 I’d like to invite you - If you have never received Jesus as Lord and Savior, what a wonderful gift. Heaven will celebrate, loved ones will rejoice. Today is the day. Come as we sing and receive the perfect Gift of Jesus this Advent Season.