

First Sunday of Advent

Reflection by Sr. Marilyn McMillin, CDP



The readings from the First Sunday of Advent are filled with directives for celebrating life as one who sincerely believes in the Incarnation.

awake from your sleep; throw off the works of darkness; conduct yourself properly; put on the Lord Jesus Christ; stay awake; be prepared

What marvelous advice and technically speaking, so easy a child can do it. We who are adults have eyes that see not and ears that hear not. We have an awful ability to make the easy seem impossible. All of us are asked to see how we can become closer to Jesus and bring Him to hearts and minds of those we meet along the way. To do that we need to know for whom we serve:

“Son of God, purest light
Lord on high is here tonight
Stamping through this sacred sky
Suddenly our eyes behold
Heaven’s perfect plan unfold
Son of God”¹

To make Jesus present to our world, we need to be in constant awe that God would send His Son to show us the way to eternal joy and peace. The eternal source of love asks us to transmit His presence in the way we speak, listen, and serve until it is not we, but Christ who does these things in and through us.

What can we do at this new beginning? How can we brighten our little corner of the world? We know the answers. Let us sit down and write a list of possibilities. We can all change little things in our life that make it difficult for others to know Jesus through us. There are long awaited phone calls that we can make. There are lonely people who need to feel special. There are stories to be told seeking a willing listener. There are letters to be written and words to be said. Maybe some apologies are in order. There is time to be spent in adoration and praise for all that God has given us. This is an excellent time for forgiveness. ‘Tis a beautiful time to receive Reconciliation. Mindful of our internationality, we can choose a nation and learn a little about and pray for the people of that land.

The list is endless. The question remains, will the possibilities become realities in our behavior? Put on the Lord Jesus. May our faces shine and sparkle with the miracle of Love that beams from those who know what life is really all about.

¹ Son Of God lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Warner/Chappell Music, Inc. Michael W. Smith

