

First Sunday of Advent

A new liturgical year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. It is the season of expectation, of alertness, of hope, of watching and waiting. It is the season when the Scriptures call us to “stay

awake,” “to be alert, have our eyes open and our ears tuned in to discover all the ways that Emmanuel, God-with-us, is present.



Scripture calls out to us to stay awake to the various environments and events that shape us. Be alert to those moments when we choose to live together, loving and caring for one another. Be attentive to the voices around us calling out for justice, acceptance, compassion, for peace, for hope. Be watchful and waiting, with a responsive heart, for the Beloved One’s invitations throughout each day.

For us, Advent is a call to discover the Providence moments in our ordinary daily living, whether it is in the changing scenery around us, the Advent wreath and candles, reminding us of the Light of the world, the sending and receiving of Christmas cards, or the music that begins to fill the shopping malls. The always -to-be-expectedness of God is there, acting in the ordinary moments of living. Sometimes in the rush of the season we miss it. Sometimes it is not easy to recognize God. This Advent, as we once again prepare for the coming of God’s reign, perhaps we need to clean the lens through which we look and see, not with limited vision, but with new eyes of compassion, justice, and peace. How are we really living our lives? For in the end, we will all “stand before the Son of Man,” who will lovingly remember those lives and our acts of “making Providence visible in our world.”

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