

December 12, 2023 – Second Sunday of Advent

Jesus Christ is Coming to Town

[2 Peter 3:8-15](#)

⁸Now, dear friends, do not let this one thing escape your notice, that a single day is like a thousand years with the Lord and a thousand years are like a single day. ⁹The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some regard slowness, but is being patient toward you, because he does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; when it comes, the heavens will disappear with a horrific noise, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze, and the earth and every deed done on it will be laid bare. ¹¹Since all these things are to melt away in this manner, what sort of people must we be, conducting our lives in holiness and godliness, ¹²while waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God? Because of this day, the heavens will be burned up and dissolve, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze!

¹³But, according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness truly resides. ¹⁴Therefore, dear friends, since you are waiting for these things, strive to be found at peace, without spot or blemish, when you come into his presence. ¹⁵And regard the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as also our dear brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom given to him.

I remember as a child, and as a parent, the warnings to be good because Santa Claus is watching. You better watch out because he is coming to town. He is making a list. He is going to find out if you are naughty or nice. It is a catchy tune, but we need to be more concerned about Jesus Christ coming to town and if our name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Just as children think Christmas is taking forever to get here, we need to take heed to Peter's writing "that a single day is like a thousand years with the Lord. The Lord is not slow concerning His promises." Jesus Christ is coming to town. We are told "to be found at peace, without spot or blemish" and conduct ourselves with "holiness and godliness," while we are waiting "for new heavens and a new earth."

Children are very eagerly waiting for Santa Claus. They will strive to be on their absolute best behavior. We should eagerly be waiting for Jesus Christ. We need to strive to be on our absolute best behavior, "at peace, without spot or blemish" and "conducting our lives in holiness and godliness" because Jesus Christ is coming to town. May we be reminded He sees us when we are sleeping. He knows when we are awake. He knows if we have been bad or good. We need to be good for goodness' sake.

God is good and is good to his people. If you have accepted Christ into your life, you have made the list. Your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. So be on your absolute best behavior because Jesus Christ is coming to town.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you are good all the time. May we strive to be on our absolute best behavior and proclaim peace and good news to others. Amen.

Carol Hall
Cairo United Methodist Church, Cairo, WV
Cairo Charge Lay Delegate