

December 3, 2023 – First Sunday in Advent

Advent Season – Waiting and Preparing

[Isaiah 64:1-4](#)

¹ Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ² As when the fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! ³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. ⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

Isaiah the prophet in verse 4 stresses waiting for God. It's the encouragement the prophet provides the people. How are you waiting for God to appear in your life to assist you with dealing with a situation in your life? Ask and he shall provide the guidance; cry, he will hear; listen, he will speak; he will provide the way.

Advent is the time of preparation as God creates Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. He takes on human form and lives among us. He lives with the poor in spirit to renew and give us grace and peace. Isaiah provides us the waiting which is a passive verb, whereas preparing is an active verb. However, we are called to do both during the season of Advent. What are you waiting for: things to return to normal, forgiveness? Are you marveling in his creation – the WV mountains? Looking for answers to those in pain, poor and lonely who live on our cities' streets?

Let's spend time in our waiting to reflect on the present and the future. Are we excited and hopeful about what God will deliver? The future is uncertain to us. We don't see outside the frame or what is in the picture, but we can picture our peace among us – delivering goods to those who have lost their homes with recent fires and floods. Yes, there is hope among us as we give with a grateful heart. Praise God for the grace and peace of the birth and miracle of Christ in human flesh.

There is no God like our heavenly father. Let us pray for peace and hope in our present and future waiting and preparing for the season of Advent. God's grace is not contained, and Isaiah's prayer ends in Hope. There is no purpose without God or the grace of Christ's coming. He arrived in human form to take on all our sin. Isaiah's prayer calls for nothing less than a recurrence of the great wonders.

What acts will you do in waiting? Will you ponder upon the star that leads you to the inn to see the miracle of Christ's birth? Will you prepare your heart and mind to open your arms to others who haven't heard the news? Will you open doors to others and make room for the joy of salvation? May the peace and understanding prepare your heart for Christ the King.

Prayer: *Dear God thank you for the reminder to slow down and ponder the gift of creation and your grace shared with us through the miracle of Christ incarnate as we wait and prepare. Amen.*

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