



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee December 2024

Advent? Pay Attention....!

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

Yes, that is the purpose of Advent: Pay attention. But to what...? Why...?

We may have been through many Advents before, but times are different, and above all, we are different. So, we bring a new attentiveness to this season, as though we walk it for the first time.

To what and why are we paying attention? To the fact that He is coming... always. Why? Because He is nearer than we think...closer than our own cheek, for we live in Him and He in us. Take note of the verbs in the Gospel verses during the Advent Sundays. All of them call us to a deeper form of attentiveness: "Show us, Lord, your love...Prepare the way... Rejoice, the Spirit is upon me...May it be done to me...Open our hearts to listen..."



Yes, you are always coming.

Awaken in me a new attentiveness...

Create in me a deepened sense of your presence.

Knock and I shall open,

*surprise me anew by your helpless baby-ness,
to scatter away my fear and capture my heart.*

Thank you to S. Joyce Ballweg for this month's reflections.

Advent is a time of preparing the Way for Christ! We find ourselves preparing for Christmas in many different ways. One of which is wrapping presents. During this month, as you listen to, read and/or ponder the scriptures, search for the gift, the message, that speaks to you.

*Instead of wrapping it, UNWRAP THAT GIFT.
Dwell upon it, treasure it and keep it alive during the week.
Each week I will share the "gift" I found to unwrap.*

Sunday, December 1, 2024 | First Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33:14-16 | 1 Thessalonians 3, 12-4:2 | Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

*"Do not let your heart become drowsy." "Strengthen your heart."
Your heart holds treasured memories, heartaches, possibilities, hopes, love...
Unwrap the gift(s) in your Heart!*

Sunday, December 8, 2024 | Second Sunday of Advent
Baruch 5:1-9 | Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 | Luke 3:1-6

*"All the earth will see your splendor," "Be pure and blameless," Cry out..."
Unwrap and proclaim the gift of your dignity and splendor!*

Sunday, December 15, 2024 | Third Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14-18 | Philippians 4:4-7 | Luke 3:10-18

*"To be Baptized with the Holy Spirit and Fire!"
"God would sing joyfully because of you!"
Unwrap the gift of your Baptism!*

Sunday, December 22, 2024 | Fourth Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:1-4 | Hebrews 10:5-10 | Luke 39-45

*"Leap for joy," I joyfully "come to do your will," "be peace."
In all of our relationships, we have opportunities to radiate joy.
Unwrap the gift of Joy!*

Sunday, December 29, 2024 | Feast of the Holy Family
1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 | Colossians 3:12-17 | Luke 2:41-52

*"The word of Christ dwells in you richly," "...advance in wisdom, age and favor."
Others may not understand why we do what we do, nor act the way we do.
Unwrap the gift of being God's Chosen One.*