



Racine Dominicans  
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

# PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

*Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee December 2022*

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## The Mysterious Coming

*By S. Carla Mae Streeter*

This year Christmas is on a Sunday. Yes, we are remembering the coming of the Christ in history, and the Church will be reminding us during this month of the final coming in majesty. The humanness and powerful images captivate our attention. Yet there is a subtle coming that can escape us if we do not intentionally heighten our awareness of it.

The risen Christ in his transformed humanness meets us in a thousand disguises. His Easter message was “Now I will no longer be with you the former way. I will be wherever you are.” This nearness, this intimacy, can be unnerving, because it is so personal. He is always at my side. He accompanies me as I fold my laundry and brush my teeth. He holds me in grief. He guards me when I sleep. This mysterious ‘coming’ is something he decided long ago. It is I who am out and about. It is I who forget and mistakenly think I am alone. The result is often anxiety, worry, fear, and sadness. These unwanted guests are in my house all too often. But there is a holy trick. They can be put to service.

In these dark days of winter, when my mood is heavy, there can be a sly smile on my soul. Each time I notice my mood I can call out, and I can use the awareness to remember. I can remember that no matter my mood, no matter the circumstances, no matter my discomfort or outright pain, nothing can separate me from him. The mysterious ‘coming’ is my own. I am coming to a deepened awareness. My Advent is a coming in mystery...a coming to a new awareness of a new truth. Yes, he came...and he has never left.

I sometimes think my soul is empty  
like an empty house or a kitchen table with no one around it.  
But I am mistaken.  
My soul is an open window  
and the Spirit's breath often blows in to kiss my cheek.  
Through my soul I am connected with all of you.  
I reach all those weeping and I sit with those with no home.  
I gaze across the sea at those bobbing in lifeboats  
hoping to reach a safe shore.  
At the table of my soul sits a distinguished Guest.  
He is there each day to have a cup of coffee,  
and each day I am aware of his wounded hands and feet.  
He makes himself at home.  
Sometimes I forget.  
But I am learning to remember he is just around the corner of my mind.  
The One who is always coming...

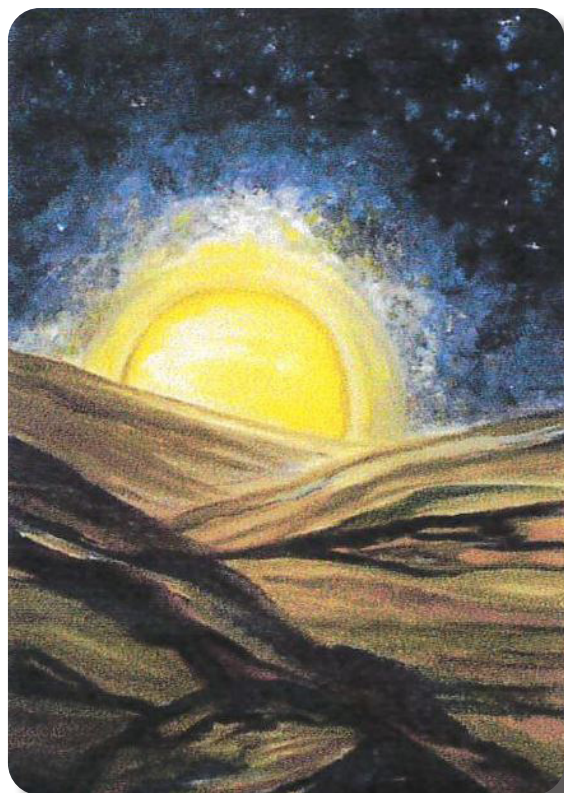
Thank you to Associate Joseph Marco for this month's reflections and artwork.

**Sunday, December 4, 2022**

**2nd Sunday in Advent**

*Matthew 3:1-12 & Isaiah 11:1-10*

The season of Advent has a special cast of characters. Two of them are Isaiah, who yearned for the coming of the Lord, and John the Baptist who announced the presence of Jesus. Like John, we recognize Jesus' presence among us, and our need to repent. John was the first one in Jesus' time to call people to repentance. The words of Isaiah ring out. "A voice cries out in the desert – prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" John the Baptist also proclaimed the words of Isaiah. "A voice of one crying out in the desert. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."



**Sunday, December 11, 2022**

**3rd Sunday in Advent**

*Matthew 11:2-11*

Which pathway are we going to take through our own wasteland and desert? Is our path straight and direct, or is it a winding road? Regardless, this season of Advent means there is something for us on the horizon, the likes of which we have never seen before. We can't miss it. We do have time, so we should not run, rush, worry or push.

**Sunday, December 18, 2022**

**4th Sunday in Advent**

*Luke 1:78-79 & Isaiah 2:5*

Together, let us strive toward the light of Christ, which is coming again. It is on the horizon. As we prepare for His coming, "Let us walk in the light of the Lord."

**Sunday, December 25, 2022**

**Christmas**

*Isaiah 9:1-6*

"The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."  
He, Christ, is the true Light that enlightens all people.