



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

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While Waiting in the Dark

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

Advent is a time of immense waiting. We wait for what we cannot yet see. It is growing... coming to be, but we wait in the darkness of unknowing. The liturgy gives us a woman during this season to teach us how to trust that something is going to emerge from the darkness. The darkness is going to give way to the light. We can learn much from Mary during this Advent time, especially because the present darkness around us is so intense.

The woman is aware that her very being is shaping something, yet the design is being woven by an unseen hand. Her humanness is providing the 'stuff,' the DNA, the cells, the tissue, the bone, but she does not see what it is becoming. But Someone else has the plan. She assists the plan. She eats, sleeps, speaks, and waits.

It sounds like us, the Church, doesn't it. We so long for all the bickering to stop. We long for the corruption to end. We want the immigrants to find a home. We want the wars to cease for lack of interest. Yet all the while our longing is weaving something. Our desires strain to be realized and like the woman, we sense that Someone has a plan for what shall be. Advent is our time of longing for what grows in us, among us, from us. Advent is our time to assist...it is the time of active waiting. We too will eat, sleep, and wait. We will listen to the news...watching for signs of hope, signs of what is coming to be in the dark.

And just as sure as that newness will emerge from Mary's longing, so will the reign of God emerge from the darkness of our Advent longing. We do not know what it shall look like... we only know that its coming is as sure as that birth. We assist. We do the ordinary things with extraordinary active love, and in due time, it comes. It comes from the time of our active waiting in the fertile dark of our faith.

*Come, Lord Jesus... Do not delay.
From our longing and our tears,
Weave the flesh of our peace.
Build the blocks of unity from our differences.
Shape us into a people after your own heart.
Teach us, Weaver of plans, how to assist you.
Be it done unto us according to your Word
As we wait in the dark.*



Thank you to Associate Laura Gellott for this month's reflections.

First Sunday of Advent | December 3 | Isaiah 63:16-17, 1, 64:2-7

Waiting. Advent means "Arrival." But the tenor of this time is one of waiting. In our first week of Advent, the Scriptures have a tone of desperate pleading, one that resonates in our troubled times. Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down.... The Scripture passage ends on a note of comfort. O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: the work of your hands.

"Darkness hangs, the world is aching, yearning for the coming light."

Second Sunday of Advent | December 10 | Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 64:2-7

We cannot be inert clay in the hands of the potter. We must work to prepare ourselves and our world for the coming of the Savior. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God. The Advent of the Lord seems a long way off. We are impatient. But God's time is not ours. With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. Despair not. The day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar.... We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

"In his rising hope awaking. Love has come to steal the night."

Third Sunday of Advent | December 17 | Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Gaudete Sunday! Rejoice! Hope rises, like the pink sky at dawn. The promise of the new heaven and new earth draws closer. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to prisoners ... So will the Lord God make justice and praise spring up before all nations.

"In our hearts true East we're facing, toward the coming of our Lord."

Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 24 | Luke 1:26-38

Time accelerates! A thousand years is like a day! The fourth week of Advent is – one day long!! Anticipation builds. The Messiah is nigh, and with him the promised reign of righteousness. The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth...to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son....
For nothing shall be impossible for God.



"Morning rising, gloom now fleeing, Christ returned! His word is true."