

## First Sunday of Advent

A bishop was coming to stay at a rector's house for the night. The rector's eight year old son who was excited about the important guest, asked his father if he could take the bishop his tea in the morning. The rector agreed but told his son that he must knock on the door and say, "It's the boy, my lord. It is time to get up."

On his way upstairs the nervous boy was clutching the cup and saucer and practicing his words. He knocked on the door and the bishop asked, "Who is it?" The boy replied at the top of his voice, "It's the Lord, my boy. Your time is up!"

Dear Friends,

The time has come to start again. As we are beginning the new liturgical year, it gives two moment in history: a look back to the coming of the Lord at Christmas and a look ahead to his second coming at the end of the time. Christian living takes place 'between the times,' between the first coming of Christ and his second coming. The first coming was humble, to say the least: an infant born of poor parents in an obscure village. The second coming will be different: "The powers in the heavens will be shaken and people will be distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves."

Today's readings help us to prepare for the coming whether it is imminent and later. In the first reading, The prophet Jeremiah offers a message of hope to the people of Israel during a time of turmoil and despair. He foretells the coming of a righteous Savior, a King from the line of David who will bring justice and peace. Advent reminds us that God keeps His promises. No matter how dark or uncertain life feels, there is always hope in the coming of Christ.

In his letter to the Thessalonians, St. Paul encourages us to grow in love and holiness. Advent isn't just about external preparations like decorating, shopping, or baking. It's

about interior preparation—making room in our hearts for Jesus. This involves acts of kindness, reconciliation, and deepening our relationship with God through prayer and the sacraments.

The Gospel today gives us a wake up call to be vigilant and prepare ourselves well. Luke wrote the Gospel to the gentile Christians and made use of the style of gentile historians. The language in this Gospel reflects the apocalyptic style, which was common in Jewish writings during times of crisis. Such literature uses vivid imagery and cosmic signs (e.g., sun, moon, and stars) to describe divine intervention in history. It was meant to give hope to believers facing persecution or hardship by reminding them of God's ultimate sovereignty.

Advent is a time for good preparation both inside and outside. But material preparation occupies or puts away the main focus. We can see the corporate world focuses on the season well ahead even before fall. Let us think about how we can be vigilant and prepare for ourselves during this time.

Let us Pray : Lord, as we begin this season of Advent, awaken our hearts to Your presence. Help us to prepare, to stay vigilant, and to live in joyful hope for Your coming. May we grow in love, holiness, and service as we await the fulfillment of Your promises. Amen.