

## Devotion for 2nd Week of Advent

### Rev. Jeanne Simpson

Jesus said this in Mark 1:14-15:

“Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’”

This is a major theme of Jesus’ preaching – that the kingdom of God has already come near, with Jesus being the symbol of that new kingdom. Jesus has fulfilled that promise of the good news of a Savior. And yet, every year, we wait again for Jesus’ coming, even though the time has been fulfilled with Jesus’ actual presence. Why? Because we live in what we call liminal time – “already, but not yet.” Jesus is present with us, but we still yearn for him. God is with us, but God is still giving himself to us. Jesus has come. Jesus is coming. Both are true, so as we sing about Emmanuel, “God-With-Us,” we also sing, “Come Holy Spirit,” “Come mystery divine,” “O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here.”

We need Jesus again to fill us when we are empty. We need Jesus again to soothe us when we are in pain. We need Jesus again to speak to us when we have no words. We are always in Advent to some extent, waiting on God-With-Us to come again.

Henri Nouwen says this: “Jesus is God-for-us, God-with-us, God-within-us. Jesus is God giving himself completely, pouring himself out for us without reserve.”

As we remember the Advent theme this week of Peace, let us remember that God sent us his Son to bring peace to our lonely, waiting hearts so that we may know and believe in God’s everlasting love for us.

*Jeanne*