

Devotion, Week of November 26, 2023
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

“Better is a dry morsel with quiet
Than a house full of feasting with strife.” – Proverbs 17:1

I hope your Thanksgiving wasn't one of strife, but I bet for many of you, it was one of busyness and at times chaos. I cooked way too much food for three people and spent a frustrating hour after dinner trying to find room for all of it and trying to scrub all the pots and pans. The next morning, I left the house at 5:15 a.m. to get our oldest daughter to the airport. It was an easy trip that early, and when I got home, I sat down with my coffee and the paper and just chilled out. I already missed her presence, but once she told me she was on the plane, I was at ease.

I spent several hours doing the puzzles from the Thursday “Brain Buster” section of the newspaper, and then read a novel Debbie Durden had loaned me for a while, in between laundry and small chores. Friday was a Sabbath day for me. And as we get ready to begin Advent this coming Sunday, I hope you will take some time to sit in the quiet and let the busyness of the Christmas season just pass you by for a little while. We start the season with hope. In a world filled with pain, this is a hard concept to deal with right now. Hope seems hard to find, but the example I was reminded of this week was the life of Rosalynn Carter. She always settled on hope for the future as her mantra. When people wanted to interview her about her past life, she would say that she didn't need to talk about that anymore – books had been written, interviews had already been given. She wanted to talk about caring for the people in need around us right now, especially the mentally ill. This indomitable woman never stopped advocating for good care for them.

She is an example to me of how to live a life – looking forward with hope. This advent season may be full of the pain in the world around us, but it is also full of hope for a resolution of conflict. And as we hope for this savior to come among us and to rejoice in the incredible gift God sent to earth, let us take some time in this time of waiting, to be quiet, to rest, and to be thankful for our blessings.

Jeanne