

Devotion, Week of December 3, 2023

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

The Advent calendar daily reflection for December 3 is titled “Keep Watch,” with the short reflection “Always be on the lookout for the coming of Christ into your life. He enters in his time.” The Mark 13 text is referenced:

“Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

We often forget to keep watch for Christ to come into our lives. We tend to think of holy moments when we have encountered God in some way, but we often don't recognize simpler moments when Christ has in fact shown up. It's like the Matthew text from my sermon on Christ the King Sunday, when people asked Jesus when they had fed or clothed or cared for Him. His response was when they did this to the least, they did it to Him. So Christ comes, in ways and times that we do not expect. We may be waiting for Christ to come on Christmas morning, at his birth, but especially in this season, I think Christ comes to us every day, if we just open our hearts to let Him in. He comes when we perform simple acts of kindness, a time when we sit and reflect on the purpose of Advent, a time when we look at the beautiful Christmas lights and listen to the special Christmas music and rejoice in a season of celebration. It is the knowledge that we wait for Christ, because as Psalm 39 says, our hope is in the one who came to save us, and who comes back to us over and over, even when we're not watching.

I hope you experience hope and Christ in your life this week. Advent blessings.

Jeanne