

FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

**The First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022**

FAITH LUTHERAN

An Evangelical Lutheran Church

3374 Maybank Highway
John's Island, SC 29455

Church: (843) 559-1242 Pastor: (843) 469-3630

Email: faithjohnsisland@gmail.com

Website: www.FaithJohnsIsland.org

Pastor's Email: TomCassem@gmail.com



Ministers: *The Disciples at Faith Lutheran Church*

Pastor: *The Rev. Thomas A. Cassem*

Organist: *Helena Bradford*

INTRODUCTION

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

WE PREPARE

PRELUDE

“ We Are Waiting For Jesus”

ACS 905

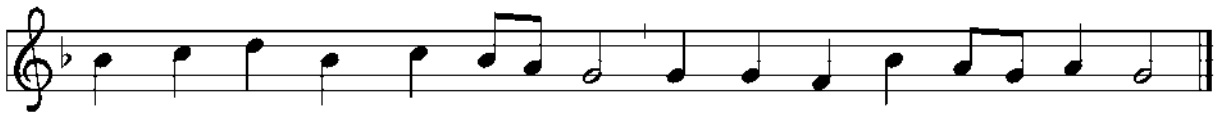
(see the advent hymn for words)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
 hallows night with newborn light.
 Night cannot this light subdue;
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!
 To the holy Trinity
 praise we sing eternally!

Text: atr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version
 Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

As the presiding minister begins, all may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**


P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

P People of God,

C **a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on  Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. Amen.**

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

WE PRAISE GOD

ADVENT HYMN

ACS 905

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

PRAYER FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 122

To be read responsively by whole verse

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.” (Ps. 122:1)

¹I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

All children are invited to come to the Altar steps for a special “Children’s message”.

SERMON

Rev. Thomas A. Cassem

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 770

Give Me Jesus

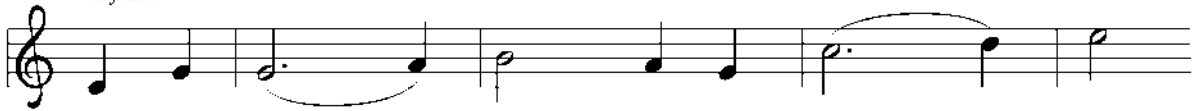


1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
and when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

THE APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

P As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

P God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L We lift up to you all who are especially on our hearts silently or spoken.
(*A Brief Silence for Petitions*) God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

SHARING OUR LORD'S PEACE

The minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING

We acknowledge the offerings given for the mission of the church.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C **Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT

HOLY COMMUNION

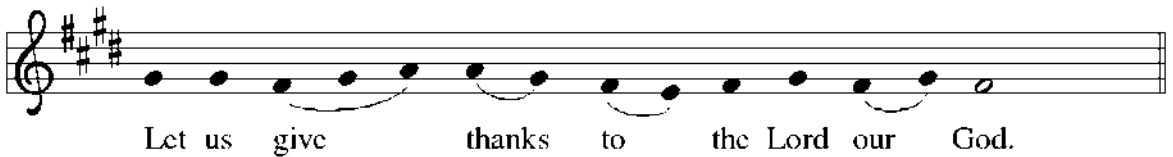
Great Thanksgiving



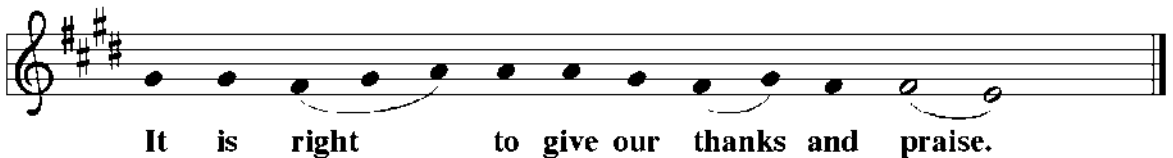
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

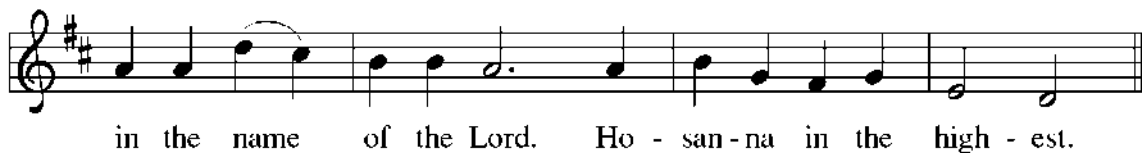
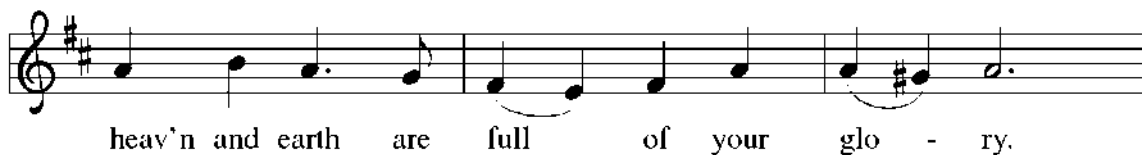


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues:

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Pastor leads us in the Words of Institution (Not Printed)

Please direct your attention to the altar.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The Gifts of God for the People of God.

C Thanks be to God.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

WE RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Distribution

Please be seated. All who celebrate with us the presence of the risen Christ in Holy Communion are invited to join us for this sacrament. You may come forward and receive the elements at the communion station or remain seated and use communion kits. Please remain seated until the ushers invite you to commune by pew. If you come forward, please return to your seat by the outside aisle. Children are invited for a blessing.

Communion Hymn

ELW 262

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff contains a melody with a final cadence on a whole note G. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff ends with a final cadence on a whole note G. The bass staff concludes with a final chord.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

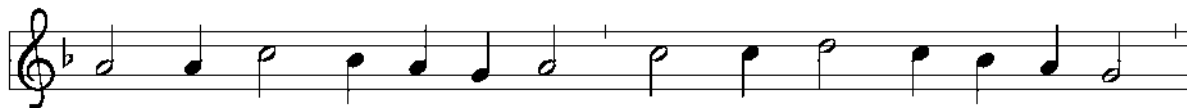
Comfort, Comfort Now My People



- 1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load,
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Communion Blessing

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Communion Prayer

P Let us pray.

C Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WE ARE SENT **BENEDICTION**

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

C Amen

This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.

C Thanks be to God.

Our Worship Ends + Our Service Begins

Time to Wake Up

Advent is a season of waking up. Even as the days grow darker, we are awoken to the light of truth about our lives, the world, and, ultimately, God. But no one really *likes* being woken from sleep, real or metaphorical. No one likes being pulled from a cozy blanket to a crowded commute, from dreams to reality, from what's comfortable and "always has been" to what's actually happening right now. It's why when we have pivotal, perhaps painful moments in our lives in which we become aware of something previously hidden, or about which we shed the veil of denial, we refer to them as "wake-up calls."

Yet it is never God's intent to hurt us by rousing us from sleep. It is not to punish us for our past mistakes, to expose our inner failings to the world, or to add to the already deep well of shame that so many of us carry. *It is for our good* that God comes to reveal that which was hidden, breaking into our world as human flesh and blood. And it is for our good that, through our baptism, we are able to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14). The divine image is revealed in you, and in every friend and stranger. God knows, loves, and takes delight in each of us.

That is why nations will beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks, and their guns into gravel to build a highway for our God. We won't *need* to learn war anymore, as the prophet says (Isaiah 2:4), because you can't raise arms against your own kin, another person in whom the living Christ dwells.

This season is a time for us to awaken to this new reality: at any moment, and at every moment, Christ lives among and within us, helping us rub the sleep out of our eyes, and revealing a different way. Welcome to Advent.