

December 1, 2024



COME, LORD! SHOW US YOUR LOVE!

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Readings

*The days are coming, says the LORD,
when I will fulfill the promise
I made to the house of Israel and Judah.*

JEREMIAH 33:14

Brothers and sisters:

*May the Lord make you increase and abound in love
for one another and for all,
just as we have for you,
so as to strengthen your hearts,
to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.*

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12

And then they will see the Son of Man

*coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
But when these signs begin to happen,
stand erect and raise your heads
because your redemption is at hand.*

LUKE 21:27-28

Reflection

With a quick shift of seasonal celebrations, I am experiencing a bit of whiplash today. As Thanksgiving weekend draws to a close, still savoring gratitude for my life and for loved ones, a new season of celebration dawns. October, November and December provide us with opportunities for joyful celebrations of family, belonging, relationships now and past, love, gratitude, and connection -- all of which warms my spirit. But these same celebrations also bring anxiety, stress, and emotional struggle for many. Light and darkness exist together.

Today we are embarking on our Advent journey, four weeks of preparation for, waiting for, and remembering the coming of God among us. We now embark on the beginning of a new liturgical year!

Aemiliana Lohr writes, ***“Advent [seen as arrival] is really the first word and the last in the year’s liturgy; it is an essential note of the liturgy itself. Liturgy celebrates the one who comes, indeed one who comes daily.”*** The coming of God is a daily event. The One we await is already within us.

Advent is a spiritual way station of sorts, where one pauses to reflect, rest, assess, and re-energize for the journey. Advent is a time of new beginnings, of possibility as we watch and wait to catch a glimmer of God’s light -- that is, the light that has come into the world. Advent offers a renewed invitation to prepare again the way of the Lord in our hearts, and in the world.

It seems to me that Advent provides an opportunity for purposeful realignment of our minds and hearts to live in the flow of grace that is Jesus, God among us, who is the Promise of God with us as Love and Light for our weary, yet beautiful, world.

I believe that Jesus is the reflection of God’s great love for us and for all of creation. Jesus teaches us to be alert to the presence of God among us. In the fading light and impending darkness of challenging times, we are encouraged to be the goodness we desire. Like Jesus, we are to reflect God’s love and presence among us.



Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- How can I realign my manner of being to make every encounter a sacred encounter?
 - How am I invited to greet everyone as if for the first time, and first assume the best in the other?
 - How have I seen the face of God in my neighbor or family member?
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For Prayer

*God of Gracious Presence,
“May I not only perceive more clearly
but also feel more deeply
that you alone are the God of my heart and my portion in eternity:
that you are with us*

*though apparently hidden, helpless, forgotten, and ignored
at this Advent season.
Show yourself to me in the hidden omnipotence of your grace.”
Amen.*

KARL RAHNER, SJ

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