

December 3, 2024



THE DEEPENING SEASON

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

*Behold, our Lord shall come with power;
he will enlighten the eyes of his servants.*

Reflection

Advent holds the assurance of God's Promise of unconditional and inclusive love yet to be revealed among us. This is a season of opportunity, of remembering that God stands at the door of our hearts ready and waiting for each of us to open our heart and welcome God home. In choosing to open my heart lies true freedom.

Consider the following insight into God's promise of freedom: ***"The grim happenings around us, the devastations and violence are not exaggerated rumor, but solid fact. And God's knock at the door of***

***our spirit, God's invitation to surrender to Love and accept in return inner freedom, is a thing that should be taken just as seriously.... With God the only way to complete freedom is complete surrender, there is no alternative. But God's summons is always creative. The indispensable preparation on our part is a change of heart."* (Taken from *The Prison Meditations of Father Delp*)**

Advent waiting offers us the opportunity to reflect on the continuity between belief and our manner of living, relating, discerning, and choosing. This is a season of welcome and of deepening relationship with God. It is a time to reflect on the alignment of our life of faith within God's ways, and our lived reality. Advent waiting is not stagnant; rather, Advent waiting is a dynamic grace urging self-reflection and adjustment so we can be the love, peace, joy, and justice we desire to be for the sake of God's people, for the life of the world.



Photo by Sr. jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- What is the “devastation and violence” that taunts my soul?

- What do I need to surrender or hold more lightly so to welcome inner freedom?
 - For which graces do I ask, that are needed for my growth toward integrity?
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For Prayer

*God of Advent Waiting,
I seek to embrace all that you desire for my good.
Thank you for your presence in my life
and for calling me to be your own in body, mind, and spirit.
May I always recognize your goodness flowing through me.
I seek to be a reflection of your great love in the world.
Show me the way to live, to love and to serve
so that I might reflect you in all I am, say, and do.
May this Advent journey transform me to live with truth and integrity.
I pray for the grace to reflect your love, compassion, mercy
in all my encounters.
Come, O Saving Light!
Amen.*

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