

Advent Devotional – Day 1

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year...”

I can’t believe it’s that time already! My how time flies. It’s already December, and you know what that means. It’s time. Time to get ready for Christmas. Time to shop. Time to decorate. Time to make travel plans. Time to celebrate. Time to do a bunch of extra things we don’t really have time to do. It’s also time to...wait. Yes, this is a season of waiting. Waiting in lines. Waiting in traffic. Waiting for packages to arrive. Waiting.

On the Friday after Thanksgiving, Jeff and I went to Walmart. I know what you’re thinking, “Why?!” Actually, it was evening, and we naively thought the crowds would have thinned. We were in need of gluten-free crackers. So we grabbed the box of crackers and headed to the front of the store to pay. The lines were really long! We said, “We don’t have time to wait.” So we left. No crackers. This past Saturday, Jeff and I wanted to go out for breakfast. We went to Cracker Barrel. It was a 35 minute wait just to be seated. We said, “We don’t have time to wait.” So we left. No breakfast.

I have to confess. For me waiting often involves toe-tapping, finger-drumming, watch-checking, and loud sighing. You may not be as bad at waiting as I am, but the truth is most of us wait anxiously, impatiently, and depending on the situation, maybe even with a sense of dread. To all of us who have trouble waiting, God gives the gift of Advent – a time to practice a different kind of waiting. In Advent, we wait with anticipation, expecting something wonderful to come. Specifically, in Advent we wait for the coming of the Lord – not just his birth, but his constant coming into our lives, and his future coming in final victory. In Advent wait as described in God’s word:

“Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.” (Psalm 27:14)

The kind of waiting described in the Psalm is the Advent kind of waiting. The Hebrew word translated “wait” means a patient, hopeful, and expectant waiting. In fact, the Common English Bible translates it as “Hope in the Lord...” As we wait for the coming of the Lord, we wait with hope and excitement, as a child waits for Christmas Day.

I have decided to come to this Advent season willing to wait – to hopefully, expectantly, and patiently wait for the Lord to enter my life each and every day. I’m going to avoid saying, “I don’t have time to wait,” lest I find myself at the end of Advent, walking away without what I came for: Hope. Peace. Joy.

Join me! It’s time. Let’s hopefully wait together.
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

Pastor Jannette