



The Church of The Good Shepherd

November 16th, 2022

“Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

You, O God, will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before you, *
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.”

Psalm 85:10-13

Advent is the time in the Christian year when we prepare for the coming of Christ: the incarnation. We can also say that Advent is the start of a new year, when we set goals for our life as Christians. But this time we are to go deeper, that is, to a renewal of our spiritual commitment with God.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola in his spiritual exercises starts with the principle that all human beings are created to praise, reverence, and serve God. And God’s creation is meant to help us reach that goal. All of God’s creation, human beings and the world that surrounds us, is meant to praise God, our source of life. It is also a renewal of our baptismal vows. To see with new eyes, we are to have a rebirth, wash away the old and take a life healing journey with Christ. Let Jesus make us new in our hearts to return to the source of love, God. We may call it a new beginning, but in reality it is a continuation of the history of humanity as it continues its spiritual pilgrimage to arrive, or return to God’s embrace. Advent then becomes a reminder that we are to focus on the gifts that unites all peoples with God’s creation, just like Jesus unites us to God by giving his own life as a gift for our salvation.

This Advent as we continue to praise our Lord as a congregation, we also are starting a journey to prepare and walk with Christ to guide us as we discern what this new life will look like. Through this process we are to be reminded to live with gratitude and see with new eyes. Become one body in Christ, let go of the past and be united in this spiritual pilgrimage that will lead us to a new birth. *Allowing righteousness to go before us, and peace to be a pathway for our feet.*

Peace,

The Rev. Loyda Morales
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