

Advent 2018
Methodist Liaison Office
Devotions



*Waiting in the wilderness,
Picture taken by Kristen L. Brown*

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A Time of Waiting

How many times a day do you find yourself waiting? We wait for the kettle to steam or for the coffee to brew. We wait for the light to change or for a parking spot to open. A reply to an email, a returned message, for an appointment. We wait for meals, for paydays, for bonuses. For an apology, for forgiveness, for healing, for rest, for renewal. The whole world waits for justice, for peace, for reconciliation.

Sometimes we find ourselves waiting passively or impatiently or angrily or apathetically. Often times we wait joylessly and hopelessly. Because waiting can be difficult. It can be painful, it can make us anxious, it can even make us violent.

But as followers of Christ, we are called to, are blessed with, a different type of waiting.

“The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.”
Jeremiah 33:14

In this time of Advent, we are reminded that we get to wait with the end in sight: a promise fulfilled, a world redeemed, the Prince of Peace on the throne.

We are called to wait actively, embracing and spreading hope and joy, in anticipation of the promise fulfilled.

As the body of Christ, we are to take part in the Kingdom that is both here and now and yet to come. Giving love, offering grace, pursuing justice, making peace- this is how we are to wait. We don't wait apathetic to suffering, blind to oppression, paralyzed by domination. But we wait emboldened by healing, with our eyes on liberation, strengthened by our Saviour, each of us playing a part in proclaiming

the good news, comforting the brokenhearted, and freeing those that are captive.

And as we do, we will rejoice because “He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”

Christ Be Our Light *By Bernadette Farrell*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness;
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness,
Christ be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Let us pray,
Heavenly Father, fill us with anticipation, strengthen us with your love, and guide us with your grace. Remind us of your justice and empower us to seek it, so that your peace shall once again encompass the whole earth. Amen

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