

Advent 2018
Methodist Liaison Office Devotions
3rd Week of Advent



Luke 3:7-18

As we enter this third week of Advent, what shall we do in order to prepare our hearts for God?

“The crowds asked John, ‘What, then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’” (Verses 10-14)

Basically we are called to treat each other with human dignity. This looks like sharing with others, not cheating others. It looks like justice,

kindness and walking humbly with God. (Micah 6:8)

The prophets of old, and John the Baptist, were preparing the people to behave in a manner more pleasing to God. They were preparing humanity to draw closer to God and God’s creation. They were preparing people to receive Christ.

As we wait during Advent, today in our world, we do not have to look very far in order to see the greater need for God through Jesus Christ in our lives.

It may be easier for some people to share with others, and we can find examples of this most everywhere. However, what about through taxes and those who collect them? And, what of soldiers?... and the list could go on.



Sadly, we are living in a time where hunger and poverty could be eliminated, yet they still overwhelm the world. Could taxes could be used to benefit all instead of

the most powerful? Are soldiers asked to perpetuate fear and hatred? Are people truly happy?

Yes, in the season of Advent, we are called to wait, however, I do not believe we are called to act with indifference. It matters to the cold and

hungry when we do not share coats and food. It matters to the poor, oppressed and the occupied people when taxes are unjustly levied and benefits are unjustly applied in some areas and not others. It matters when wars are perpetuated and ever more people become refugees.

We were given a plan for a new way of life — to care, to live justly and to walk humbly with God.

Jesus came and is coming again, with this same message. Are you ready to live now, in response to God’s call?

Christ Be Our Light
By Bernadette Farrell

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

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,
Loving God, humble our hearts, open our eyes, and move us to compassion. Thank you for opportunities to serve you by serving others.

Devotion written by Kristen L. Brown, serving through Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

Picture taken by Douglas Dicks, serving through the PCUSA, River Jordan, reminder of paths made straight.