

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

Welcome to Advent, The Great Coming, the Anticipation of Peace. Interesting – the Anticipation of Peace. I certainly do not feel Peaceful in this present moment. The Prophet Jeremiah announces that the days are coming And in our Christmas readings from Isaiah, there WILL be Peace. Jeremiah speaks of a new name for the Lord: “our Justice”. I believe that justice will not be a wielding arm of punishment. But rather a “Putting things a-right”. A Right-ness, therefore PEACE.

And in Luke’s Gospel, there is the Apocalyptic literature speaking of wars, earthquakes and destruction. Doesn’t this sound familiar??? No, I don’t believe the “end is near”. But I DO believe that the New Christians in the early church, and WE today, must be vigilant ... and pray that we have the strength to: Stand before the Son of Man. For Luke urges us to “stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand”.

This leads me to search for hope in what seems like a violently hopeless period. When I need to search for hope, I read Vaclav Havel:

“Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.”

And another-

“Hope is a state of mind, not of the world. Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously heading for success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good.”

So here we are at the door of another Advent/Christmas season. Let us pray for each other in this Holy Season.