

Second Sunday of Advent – Cycle C

December 9, 2018

Christ the Good Shepherd, ORCC

Reflection by Father Charles Blanchard

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Psalm:

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Welcome to Christ the Good Shepherd. It's exciting to see so many people of divergent backgrounds who have decided to come here; to pray; to sing; and to affirm common ground. A common ground created out of Catholic ritual, tradition and history, and yet applied, in a new and creative way where all are welcome to hear God's Word and feast at this table where there is no partiality.

How many times in your life have you ever desired to be called?

- Maybe you waited upon a favorable response after a hopeful job interview;
- Perhaps, you have auditioned for a play or school musical or tried out for an athletic team, and you waited on pins and needles for that affirming call from a director or coach, "You're in!"

What excitement you felt when you received the call from someone who affirmed your worth; from someone who said you're golden!

This Sunday, too, is a Memory Moment of joy, expectation and gladness. It's a joy, expectation and gladness wherein a new light will shine brightly in and through our lives. You and I are invited to receive this wonderful call and accept it.

Advent is about the coming of Jesus as our Savior. He calls to us and reaches out to us, down to us, drawing us closer to Himself.

Advent invites us to prepare ourselves to hear the glorious call and for the world to receive the Savior.

The Prophet Baruch reminds us that God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for all.

Our faith in the call, our faith in embracing the light of Christ; Christ's coming into the world, is challenged daily. Through news channels, the internet, and social media, we absorb sometimes horrid news about pain, suffering and death and we wonder — where is God in all of this stuff?

- Abject poverty;
- Terrorism;
- Personal Dissonance;
- The constant undermining of political institutions;
- The disparagement of immigrants;
- Hate crimes; and
- Abuses of all forms

These life experiences and many more shake our faith. We persevere in His Advent, our faith hard-wearing. Despite these terrible setbacks, disappointments and losses, early Christians acknowledged, and modern day Christians reaffirm, His call to the light of His Glory this day!

The Gospel today from Saint Luke puts the figure of John the Baptist in front of us. John calls us to repent and await the coming Messiah. Like John, you and I are called to be a “voice crying in the wilderness,” calling out that God is present and that God is here for the salvation of the world.

My sisters and brothers, we are called to be witnesses that God has touched our lives and has come expressly for the salvation of our world. Let us live in faith and confidence. May our great God of Peace and Love continue the good work He has begun in our lives.

Let us live our lives this Advent season with joy, expectation and gladness wherein a new light will shine brightly in and through our lives today, tomorrow and beyond. The choice is yours and mine whether we accept the call.

Gracias de Dios para todos; God's grace be with all of us! Amen.