



FOR ALL THE SAINTS
Monthly Newsletter

December 2004

Dear Friends at ALL SAINTS,

Waiting. Waiting is something we all have to do. Waiting for the bus to bring the children home from school. Waiting for the light to change. Waiting in the check out line at the grocery store. Waiting for the doctor to give us the news, good or bad. During our Wednesday Evening Advent Services we will look at waiting in the Psalms and Isaiah as we wait for the coming of the Messiah. If you would like to pre-read the texts they can be found at www.cresourcei.org/adevnt1.html or call the Church Office if you don't have Internet access. The readings we will use are adapted from The Book of Common Prayer, Year 1. I hope that you can join us in the waiting line.

Peace,

Pastor Ron

Order of Service
December 1, 2004
7:30pm

For this year's Wednesday Evening Advent Services we will be using the Service of The Word starting on page 126 in the LBW (**Green Hymnal**)

Stand (if you are able)

Hymn # 394 in LBW

Page 127 LBW we sing antiphonally the Advent Dialog with the pulpit side starting with the 1st line and the Lectern side responding reading the bold print.

Page 128 Creed LBW

Canticle #14 in the Hymn section of the LBW

Prayer of the Day: Lord God you hear our every question. Strengthen the hearts of those who cry out to you and guide us to the way of salvation, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

The first lesson: Isaiah 2:1-11

The Psalm for the Day: Psalm 13 (see insert) will be read responsively

Stand (if you are able)

The Gospel lesson: Luke 20:9-18

Silence for Meditation

Sermon

Stand (if you are able)

Hymn #230 This Far By Faith (**Maroon Hymnal**)

Offering

Stand (if you are able)

Prayers Page 129 LBW

Lord's Prayer Page 130 LBW

Canticle # 7 in the Hymn Section of the LBW

Benediction Page 130 LBW

Order of Service
December 8, 2004
7:30pm

For this year's Wednesday Evening Advent Services we will be using the Service of The Word starting on page 126 in the LBW (Green Hymnal)

Stand (if you are able)

Hymn # 47 This Far By Faith (Maroon Hymnal)

Page 127 LBW we sing antiphonally the Advent Dialog with the pulpit side starting with the 1st line and the Lectern side responding reading the bold print.

Page 128 Creed LBW

Canticle #14 in the Hymn section of the LBW

Prayer of the Day: Lord God, we desert you daily and fear that you would do the same but you are faithful despite all our doubts. Strengthen us to be your faithful servants through Jesus Christ who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever. Amen

The first lesson: Isaiah 6:1-13

The Psalm for the Day: Psalm 38 (see insert) will be read responsively

Stand (if you are able)

The Gospel lesson: John 7:53-8:11

Silence for Mediation

Sermon

Stand (if you are able)

Hymn #84 This Far By Faith (Maroon Hymnal)

Offering

Stand (if you are able)

Prayers Page 129 LBW

Lord's Prayer Page 130 LBW

Canticle # 7 in the Hymn Section of the LBW

Benediction Page 130 LBW

Order of Service
December 15, 2004
7:30pm

For this year's Wednesday Evening Advent Services we will be using the Service of The Word starting on page 126 in the LBW (**Green Hymnal**)

Stand (if you are able)

Hymn # 135 This Far By Faith (**Maroon Hymnal**)

Page 127 LBW we sing antiphonally the Advent Dialog with the pulpit side starting with the 1st line and the Lectern side responding reading the bold print.

Page 128 Creed LBW

Canticle #14 in the Hymn section of the LBW

Prayer of the Day: Stir up the hearts of your people to know and love your ways. Guide our feet to follow you all the days of our lives, through Christ Jesus your Son. Amen.

The first lesson: Isaiah 9:8-17

The Psalm for the Day: Psalm 119:49-72 will be read responsively Page 275

Stand (if you are able)

The Gospel lesson: Mark 1:1-8

Silence for Meditation

Sermon

Stand (if you are able)

Hymn #26 LBW

Offering

Stand (if you are able)

Prayers Page 129 LBW

Lord's Prayer Page 130

Canticle # 7 in the Hymn Section of the LBW

Benediction Page 130 LBW

Order of Service
December 22, 2004
7:30pm

For this year's Wednesday Evening Advent Services we will be using the Service of The Word starting on page 126 in the LBW (Green Hymnal)

Stand (if you are able)

Hymn # 38 This Far By Faith (Maroon Hymnal)

Page 127 LBW we sing antiphonally the Advent Dialog with the pulpit side starting with the 1st line and the Lectern side responding reading the bold print.

Page 128 Creed LBW

Canticle #14 in the Hymn section of the LBW

Prayer of the Day: God of Justice, help us to love all of our brothers and sisters, especially the poor who we know are close to your heart. Grant that we may stand with all your children when you call us home, through your son. Amen

The first lesson: Isaiah 28:9-22

The Psalm for the Day: Psalm 113 will be read responsively Page 270 LBW

Stand (if you are able)

The Gospel lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Silence for Mediation

Sermon

Stand (if you are able)

Hymn # 168 This Far By Faith (Maroon Hymnal)

Offering

Stand (if you are able)

Prayers Page 129 LBW

Lord's Prayer Page 130

Canticle # 7 in the Hymn Section of the LBW

Benediction Page 130 LBW

Homily – Ron Hartman
December 1, 2004

Two junior high school boys in Philadelphia stand on the platform waiting for the subway train during a beautiful spring day in 1963. They thought that they would take a little tour of the city subway system. Nothing extraordinary about that except that they are residents of Baltimore City and have snuck away from a school field trip to the Franklin Institute to look for a little more excitement. It is a wonderful feeling to go your own way. Freedom! No limits! But then they start to think of the other people in the group. They have left behind other students and teacher chaperones. What will their peers and teachers think? How will their actions affect the group? Will the teachers be angry or worried when their absence is noted? The rules that the school and chaperones set up for the students while maybe a little restrictive were designed to keep them safe. The boys didn't want to wait. They wanted to go their own way and at their own pace.

The boys wait, looking over their shoulder. First they are having a great time but then.... They wait. They start to think of the consequences if and when they are noticed to be missing. They wait. Will the chaperones be worried or angry? They wait. No cell phones in 1963 so they don't have to worry about their parents, YET.

Teenage boys filled with themselves, wanting to grow up before their time. The boys do grow up and don't end up in jail, don't get grounded for the rest of their teenage years. But for a few hours they wish they had been in jail. It would have been easier than facing their worried, angry, and embarrassed parents. The bus ride back to Baltimore is one of the longest rides of their lives, waiting to face their parents. Then their parents, while angry, take them in their arms and embrace them with love at their safe deliverance. Not that they deserved it. They had caused hearts to ache when the teachers realized that they were gone. Then the agonizing long wait until the wayward students had returned.

In the First Lesson, Isaiah tells how the people of God have forsaken the ways of the Lord and that judgment is coming. But there is promise there also for we hear the comforting words that we will walk in his paths and learn his ways. Swords are to be beaten into the plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. But in this Post 9-11 world we still have not learned his ways.

Listen to the words of the Psalmist once again:

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul,
And have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

He goes on in lament but then he closes with these words:

But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
My heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord,
Because he has dealt bountifully with me.

God had set up rules for his people, the Ten Commandants given in Sinai but again and again Israel had been impatient and turned away from God's laws. In the Psalm, David feels problems pressing in on him. How long, how long must I wait? David feels alone with the weight of kingship. We feel alone with the weight of life. But notice the glorious end to the psalm where David rejoices in the Lord.

The scribes and the priests in the evening's Gospel reading are waiting to trip up Jesus and find an excuse to hand him over to the authorities. Jesus is waiting for God's will to be fulfilled.

The religious leaders in Jesus day are waiting and longing for the Messiah but not seeing Him in-front of them. Israel had lost its way more times than we can count but then so have we.

The stories never end quite the way we expect them to end. But what we need to know is that it's not God that is absent but us. God has not forgotten us. And God embraces us in his loving arms even though we have lost our way just as the loving parents embraced their wayward teens. He calls us home.

Tonight our wait is almost over. God has dealt bountifully with us. Emmanuel, God with us is coming!

We have trusted in the steadfast love of God and he sends his Son among us to redeem us.

Yesterday and today and tomorrow.