

TRINITY NEWS

Advent. The Glory of the Lord's House and a Vision of Peace

Isaiah 2 offers a beautiful description of the Messiah's kingdom: "The mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains....All the nations shall stream to it....They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." But does that sound like the world in which we live? And if it doesn't, how can we claim that the Messiah has come? Answering that question is what the Advent season is all about. Every Sunday, when we recite the Nicene Creed, we confess that the Messiah—the anointed one, the Christ—has indeed come. So what are we to make of the suffering and pain we see all around us? The Christian perspective on this is informed by Paul's words in Romans 8:22-23: "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies." With the eyes of faith, we believe that this is really the pain of childbirth, the labor pains of the coming kingdom of God. When will the kingdom arrive in its fullness? Jesus speaks to this in today's Gospel reading from Matthew 24: "Of that day and hour no one knows." The information is withheld from us for a reason, as one of the early church fathers says, so that we might live in expectation and always be doing good. There's no time for drowsy idling, as Paul says in Romans 13: "It is now the moment for you to wake from sleep....Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." By doing that, by embracing the call of the gospel and fulfilling our calling, we hasten the day when, with the Psalmist, we can say, "Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem."

The Reverend George Harper



THIS WEEK:

Dec. 4 (Wednesday).

- Bible Study, 10:00am

Dec. 5 (Thursday).

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

📖 NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72

Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

DONATIONS.

Please remember that we are very much open to donations for the typhoon victims for the goods already mentioned and cash. Vestry decided that it would be directed to the Red Cross.