

Trinity News

First Sunday in Advent and Deep Soul Processes

The biggest single problem facing every human being every day is just to be able to function in the day without disturbance from the clutter of past thoughts and future concerns and fears. If this is blocked, then everything within the scope of one's immediate thinking can be dealt with immediately without any other hindrances. Some people advertise a "flip switch" by which we can do this, with a dollar tag of course, but the only "flip switch" that I know is to resist any negative thoughts from the past, and any fears of the future, so that the total focus and energy is on the present needs and tasks and secondarily on future plans and dreams. This released present focus of flowing mental energy leads to a sudden inrush of focused energy. It also releases the in-rushing power of the Spirit into our mind-flow to be able to touch on these issues and take them deep into our mind and into the heart of God. Don't try to work this out in your mind when you are crossing McKinley Rd. or some other busy thoroughfare or you may get run over!

Today is Advent Sunday, the beginning of the liturgical year of the Church. The above thoughts are woven into the examination of the deep soul that is part of the season of Advent in preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. The theme prayer for every Sunday is called a Collect, because it draws together the thoughts of the day and its intentions. The Collect for Advent is one of the most beautiful prayers ever written. Check it in the text below. It looks to the grace of God and is realistic about the works of darkness that exist in our world. Christ called himself the Light of the World, and that Light is invoked in this prayer. It recognizes before God the incarnation, "the enfleshing" of Christ as the icon of God in the world. It recognizes his great humility as Jesus of Nazareth and his facing of human death. It looks for his coming again in "glorious majesty" to draw together all of his connections with the hearts of humanity throughout the centuries of human history. The Collect sees in this ultimate visitation a judgment of humanity, but it is hopeful of our rising to a life that

captures everything of the past and preserves it in a new dimension in the heart of God. It ends with a brief burst of praise sometimes called a doxology, "a word of praise" that acknowledges the Divine Society, the inner heart of God that Christians call Trinity. It ends with the Hebrew word "Amen" which means "With great certainty", or "With absolute agreement."

Read the beautiful prayer hereunder and the above description of it and marvel at the links that God deigns to make with us in the beloved One from Nazareth, now risen into God, and the distinct deeply Christian understanding of the Spirit of God, available to all of us through the work and operation of the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10am.
- Group Discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

- Baruch 5:1-9
 - Psalms 126
 - Philippians 1:1-11
 - Luke 3:1-6
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