

12-18-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“We live in the tension between Jesus' coming into the world to redeem it and the consummation of the world's redemption...While we live in this tension, we have God's Spirit to guide us and comfort us. In Advent, God's Spirit reminds us that God will be faithful to finish the work God has begun through Jesus.”

- *Osheta Moore*



Matthew 1:18-25

Questions for Reflection —

- What more do you need to prepare yourself spiritually to celebrate Jesus' birth this year? How will you practice holy waiting and holy watching in the final days of Advent? What do you need in order to claim time and space for reflection, rest, and renewal in the remaining days before Christmas? Can you find some time to slow down and just be?

- What does it mean for you to trust God even when you face uncertainty or unwanted/unexpected circumstances in your life? What helps to give you a sense of God's nearness to you? What keeps you aware of God's guidance and comfort? Who might be going through a difficult time as Christmas approaches? What can you do to offer support to someone who is struggling?

- In what ways does the world around you feel turbulent, chaotic, and/or out of control? Where, in contrast, do you see glimpses of the world as God intends it to be? What signs do you see of God's presence and activity in the world? What sustains you in the tension between reality and God's dream/vision? How can we as a congregation help to build the kin-dom of God's beloved community?

Daily Household Prayer

God of grace, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Savior. Now fill us with your grace, that with her, we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things, embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.