

12-03-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Advent is not—or should not be—about putting an idealized past at the center of our story. Rather, we embrace the familiar at Advent to remind ourselves of all the ways God has been and continues to be at the center of our story, showing up again and again in surprising and hope-filled ways”

- Lisa Hancock



Mark 13:24-37

Questions for Reflection —

- What has added depth and meaning to your Advent journey in the past? What are your intentions for your Advent journey this year? Is there something different you wish to try that might expand your understanding and experience of Advent? How can you put God at the center throughout this season? How will you make room for Jesus?

- What are your deepest spiritual longings? For what do you wait in this Advent season? What does it look like to wait actively and faithfully as well as patiently? How might you be more mindful of God’s presence with you throughout your day-to-day activities? What will enable you to step back from the busyness and spend some quiet time with God? How will you refresh your spirit?

- What current events and issues are troubling to you? What sustains your hope that God’s mercy and justice can and will break into the difficult situations of our world and of our communities? Where/how do you see signs of that already happening? What will help you stay awake to God’s activity in the wider world? What challenges do you presently face in your own life? What does hope look like for you in the midst of personal difficulties and struggles?

Daily Household Prayer

O God, we are challenged to be patient during these days of Advent. Yet we find ourselves growing less patient as we wait in slow retail lines, manage our overfilled calendars, wrap gifts, and do online shopping and home decorating into late-night hours. Be patient? Yes, be patient. In this worshipful moment, strengthen our hearts, center our minds, and quiet our bodies, for your coming is near. We pray as your beloved ones. Amen.