

Rector's Reflections



Happy New Year! Yes, we are now in our new Liturgical Year B, which is the second year of a three-year lectionary cycle. The first Sunday in Advent marks the beginning of a new trip through the scriptures that will likely bring new insights as we live into our journey of faith.

Before I started writing, I recalled another article I wrote around this same time last year. Back then, I was focused on sharing my hopes and thoughts for the coming year that is now 2020. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever anticipate a global pandemic to hit and alter all life as we would know it.

The season of Advent is meant to be a time of waiting, preparation, and watching with expectant hearts for the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we go through Advent, we remember those who were waiting on the promised Messiah while reflecting on our own time of waiting for his return and recalling His birth. This is a season that offers us the opportunity to renew our hope in God's promise for a Savior who will lead us into eternal life and salvation. We all know that hope is so needed in the world right now. Some might say that this past year has been like an extended time of waiting, watching, and hoping for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines that will put an end to the pandemic. Isn't it so timely that the celebration of the birth of Christ is approaching, and a potential vaccine has been developed that promises to eradicate the coronavirus?

Hope is essential! Without it, life might lack purpose and meaning. Even in a year as challenging as 2020, there have been moments of great hope and inspiration as we pushed through many challenges along the way. I continue to be amazed and inspired by our parish community in seeing how we have pulled together through these tough times while being physically apart. You have each demonstrated your faithfulness through your continued participation, prayers, and support of our parish ministries. I would like to thank everyone who has pitched in this past year to keep things moving. Staff and volunteers have had to put in the extra effort without our traditional means of gathering in order to keep the parish community together in worship. Assistance and comfort have been offered in times of need. Accomplishments and milestones have been recognized and celebrated in different and unique ways.

Despite the challenges we faced this year, you have all been faithful stewards of our common life in ministry. Your dedication and financial contributions have made it possible to continue bringing Christ to the people and the people to Christ. Thank you for your incredible faith and generosity in such a trying year. I am equally grateful to those of you who have already made your pledge for 2021. Your support is crucial in determining the way forward into the new year as your vestry and I work toward developing a balanced budget in the weeks to come. I would also like to thank those of you who are still prayerfully considering your pledge.

This Advent season, we are more aware than ever of our need to lean on the strength and guidance our Lord offers, as we look forward with hope for the new year. As we watch and wait during this holy season, we are reminded of why the Nativity of Christ was and continues to be essential for all of creation. Liturgical Year B has begun, and 2021 is just around the corner, even though we can't predict the future, I believe that the experience of living through a pandemic has hopefully made us wiser to the fact that the one constant through it all is the God in whom we place our faith.

Advent Blessings,

The Rev. Al Crumpton+