

Message for the 3rd Sunday in Advent 2020

The days and hours of Advent continue to invite us to the work of waiting and watching: by lamplight, by starlight, and in the darkness before dawn. God often keeps us in the dark. We are not ready for the exposure light would bring. Jesus said: "I have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now."

And so we are called to practice patience. Patience is one's ability to wait something out or endure something tedious, without getting riled up. Having patience means you can remain calm, even when you've been waiting forever or dealing with something painstakingly slow or trying to teach someone how to do something and they just don't get it. It's a reminder that we are not in control, that our lives do not always happen according to our schedule. The experiences of the prophets, Mary, Joseph, shepherds and Magi remind us that we exist in God's time. Living in our current situation requires our prayer, our attention and most certainly our patience as we recognize God's presence, as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives.

Much like John the Baptist, it seems as if we are currently living in a pandemic wilderness waiting and preparing ourselves to be faithfully transformed by Jesus. And although this transformation may be filled with uncertainty, anxiety and fear, John is calling us to trust, to turn back to the source of life and forgiveness, to renew our commitment to strive for justice and peace.

As we journey into this new season out of the wilderness, let us receive Christ's love and grace in our hearts and strengthen the bonds we share with each other through our baptism.

When we say yes to God, our yes echoes that of Mary, and like her, we become God-bearers.

Presume the reason you are alive, for as much as one more day, is to participate in the life, light, and love of God.

Receive the light, then look upon others and be radiant, bearing God's light, life, and love for them. They may otherwise never know in their lifetime how much God loves them. Let each of us look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

Blessings,
The Reverend Paul Silcox