

December 1, 2017

“A Few Random Thoughts for Advent”

As John McKnight writes of Advent:

Advent is the season of Christ’s coming. This is a strange notion for us, because our lives are built around going . . . But we never go to Christmas. Christmas is always coming . . .

In every sense, God is speaking to us in these Advent weeks. The crises we think we have—energy, violence, ecology, population, money, and race—are not crises at all; they are the frantic last gasps of a people who have made gods of going, making, consuming, and conquering. We are experiencing the collapse of a faith based on going.

Christ is blessing us with a special vision of our own limits—and inviting us to await the coming One, whose love is without limit. If we accept, then we find Advent a precious gift (John McKnight, *The Other Side*, Nov/Dec 1996, pp. 6-7).

My prayer for our church is that we not miss the coming of Christ. This Christmas, as always, will be filled with odd and strange prophecies. The prophets may be secular or religious, but only God ends time. The only crises we are likely to see are the ones of our own human making. If God loves us enough to send God’s very own son, the Christ, then we have nothing to fear. Indeed, one of the most important reminders for this, or any Christmas, is an angel’s word to the shepherds. “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). AMEN!!!

Come—Worship; Stay—Learn; Go—Serve