

Monday, 21 December 2020 – Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

My wife and I have all but turned off our alarms. It's not that we don't need to be up by a certain point, or that we're living into the luxury of no schedule. Rather, our daughter has a knack for waking up anywhere from 5-30 minutes before our regular alarms would go off, regardless of what day of the week it is. Who needs an alarm clock when you have a toddler singing the "ABC's" in her crib? It is the regular 'invitation' to wake up and be alert.

We have entered the 4th Week of Advent, and the last candle (prior to the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve) has been lit. We may be tempted to think that, with the Advent Wreath full of light, we have reached the end of our time of preparation, and have completed the season. Rather, the opposite is true. Yes, we have lit all the candles, but the final work of preparation and watchful waiting has now begun.

In the gospels, Jesus repeatedly encourages the disciples to "keep awake, and watch, for you do not know the day nor the hour" of the Master's return, whether in parable form or in speaking of the coming of the Kingdom (Mt. 24:42; Mt. 25:13; Mk. 13:35, 37, among others). And we, too, as we approach these final days of Advent and the realization of the Christmas season, are called to keep watch, wait, and stay awake, perhaps even more so now. Keep watch; stay awake and alert, and may you be blessed in these days.

Prayer: Lord, may your Spirit grant strength to my spirit that I may indeed keep faithful watch for you in this season, and welcome you once more with joy and celebration. For the glory of your Kingdom, and your Light in this world. Amen.

*Reminder that you can join is on the church's Facebook page this evening at 7:00pm to connect with our "Darkest Night" service. The Order for the service will be posted there ahead of time for you to follow along. And be sure to look for the "Christmas Star" this evening, just before 6:00!