

Holy Name Cathedral
Advent Reflection



Day #1
Sunday, November 29

Is. 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

We are accustomed to thinking of Advent as a time of joyful expectation, and rightfully so. Under normal circumstances, the month of December, in particular, offers many holiday festivities. The decorating, the shopping, and the seemingly endless social gatherings are enjoyable to a point, but they can also bring unnecessary stress into our lives. The pandemic of 2020, however, seems determined to change some of that for now. With fewer holiday activities vying for our attention, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on things we do not often associate with Advent and Christmas.

Today's Gospel invites us to ponder, not the first coming of the Word Made Flesh, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary, in a humble stable in Bethlehem, but rather his second coming, as Universal King and Judge, at the end of time. Advent, it seems, is about something deeper than simply preparing us to celebrate Christmas.

The man traveling abroad in today's reading "left his servants in charge," St. Mark the Evangelist tells us, "each with his own work." Let us focus for a moment on that line, "each with his own work." God commissions us, by virtue of our baptism and confirmation, to make present the Kingdom of God in our own time, place and circumstances. All of us, in fact – clergy, religious and laity alike – have an essential role to play. What work has God entrusted to me that perhaps he has not given to another? How does God invite me to cooperate with him in making Christ present in my little corner of the world? The Lord is calling us to do his work! Unless we are paying attention, we may not hear him calling!

Reflection by Holy Name Cathedral Parishioner Devon Bezy