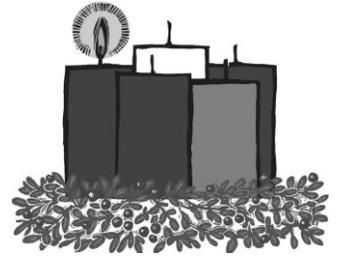


Kin Ministry



First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

THOUGHT: Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus. — Neal A. Maxwell

Recently, I had lunch with a friend, and she asked me, “What is Advent again? I get it mixed up with Lent.”

“Advent is the four weeks before Christmas,” I replied.

“Oh yeah, that’s right,” she said. “It’s that time when you wait, expecting something great and you are hopeful.”

That’s it in a nutshell, isn’t it? Waiting, expecting, hoping. A perfect description of Mary and her cousin Elizabeth, who were both waiting, expecting and hopeful.

Sounds easy enough: Expectant, hopeful waiting.

Sounds easy, but I find it the hardest part of Advent. Cards and letters to write, gifts to purchase and wrap ... and the waiting turns into activity. Doing something is much easier than waiting expectantly.

Perhaps confusing Advent and Lent isn’t such a bad idea. What if I gave up something for Advent just as I do for Lent? And what if I gave up “activity” and substituted “waiting”? A quiet waiting. A hopeful waiting. An expectant waiting.

Come to think of it: Why limit the attitude of waiting to Advent? Wouldn’t this be the best way for me to greet every day? In stillness? In hope? And always expectant?

Each day could be a day in which I expect wonderful things will happen.

I will also expect the best from the people who come my way.

Expecting with hope. That’s Advent.

It’s also the way I want to live every day!

—Melanie Silva

Prayer: Let this Advent season be different for me, O God. Grant me the grace to wait in expectant stillness, full of hope for what is to come. In Jesus’ name. Amen.