



Sunday Wonderings for December 1st

Written by Rev. Linda

Dearly Beloved;

As I write this letter I wait in Edmonton. My return to Jasper is delayed by car trouble, an unexpected event that shifted the entire day's plans. I wait.

These days it feels like we are all waiting for something. Waiting to return, waiting for friends to return, waiting for housing, waiting for things to return to normal. We are waiting. Our lives seemed delayed since July. We are waiting to get on with things. To get on with our living.

It is never easy to wait. If you are like me, you like to be busy attending to matters, to get things done and move on to the next. There are times when there are matters that need our attention and our participation. And then there are times we must wait. Either by choice or by circumstance.

A friend recently shared this piece of wisdom given to her; "when plans are interrupted, consider it a gift of time" and before you rush to fill it with countless other demands give thanks for the gift of time that invites us to wait. Breathe in and offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for this present moment in time.

This coming Sunday we begin Advent. Advent, from the Latin *adventus* – meaning arrival. *Adventus*, is the combination of *ad* (to) + *venire* (come). We await in anticipation of the celebration of the birth of baby Jesus on Christmas day and the fulfillment of the promise of Christ's second coming. We await the time when the whole earth will reside in peace and love.

We await, not passively, but in participation of the promise. As people of faith, we are invited to participate by remembering God's in-breaking into the story of our world in a particular time, place and context (in the birth of Jesus - our Christmas story) and as something that is happening with us even now as we await the 'now not yet' arrival of

the second coming of Christ. For it is by our participation in God's promise that hope, peace, joy and love are and will be fulfilled. We are invited to be people of participatory waiting even in our anxious waiting for news of car repairs, of Jasper's recovery and in the journey with a friend in grief. We wait as people of God in faithful participation in the fulfillment of the promise of God. As one person suggested, we are invited to be "midwives" of God's kairos moments – the inbreaking of God's heavenly time. Picking up on last week's reflection, we are invited to bear the light of God to welcome the light of God. We pause our hustling to get things done and join with God to see, touch and know God's kairos time.

On Sunday we gather in worship at Alpine Summit Lodge in the education room that is located on the second floor to your left as you exit the elevator. For any not familiar, Alpine Summit is located at 509 Turret Street. Alpine Summit has generously offered us the use of this space on Sunday mornings from **1000 to 1100**. Please note we begin at a new time. As we await the renewal of our whole community, for those who are unable to join in person you are invited to join virtually via Zoom using this weekly link. We gather as a community. Here's our link:

Jasper United Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting on **Sundays at 1000**.

Topic: Jasper United Church Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83883676566?pwd=i2wsHSyqrujukBgWhhyZRz1sxMIZlcG.1>

Meeting ID: 838 8367 6566

Passcode: 287075

In closing, I share the good news from across the region. The people of the church continue to reach out to offer their prayers to hold us in God's love. Below is a link to an **Update on Jasper United Church and the impact of the Jasper Wildfire** from the Northern Spirit Regional Office following our church town hall on November 8th.

<https://mailchi.mp/united-church/special-send-out-jasper-united?e=>

We are not alone,

We live in God's world.

In Advent we wait, knowing God has already come and God will come again and is with us in this present gift of time. Breathe and give thanks to God. This is Kairos time. How might you celebrate this wonderful advent promise this year?

Blessings

Rev. Linda McLaren

(and just for fun, here is me writing to you as Maia sleeps in the background)

