



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast December 19, 2021 -- 4 Advent “Expectations”

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ... And the Word became flesh and lived among us... (from John 1)

“Expectations”

In a recent AdventWorld article Carrie Graves stated:

“Advent is a season of preparation. But is it possible that we put too much stock in preparing our surroundings? How can we soften and know that God’s love is already bountiful, allowing more room in our hearts to share the good news of that love and to bountifully share our gifts to the world this season?”

Put another way, have we spent too much time trying to create a Christmas the way we think it “ought to be”? Have our memories and expectations closed the door for us to welcome anew the coming of Christ – the Word – into our lives? Speaking for myself, I have prepared to have a “normal” Christmas in 2021, not like the one of 2020, when services were cancelled, family visits disrupted or cancelled, and parties were scaled down or eliminated altogether!

Every year we hear people bemoaning the busy-ness of the Christmas season and the secular invasion of a sacred time. “Super Saturday”. “Cyber Monday”. “Black Friday”. Black? Interesting choice of words, given that this time of year is for celebrating light, “the light that shines in the darkness!” What about “Holy Christmas”?

Perhaps this year our expectations can be, NOT what we think ought to happen, but rather can we be open to what comes from the Word, God this year? We cannot go back to previous Christmases. But we do have this Christmas, and it is one we will never see again. Let us try to open our hearts to expect something special this year. As Mary said: “Our hearts honor and praise the Lord, and our spirits rejoice at the remembrance of God’s mercy and promises to our ancestors and to us!” May it be so. Amen.

Special prayers this week: please continue to pray for those traveling to visit families; those who have suffered from the terrible storms in the US; those who are sick; Pete; Elizabeth.



We light the Angel Candle symbolizing peace. May the peace of Christ be with us this Christmas.
