



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast
December 1, 2024: The First Sunday in Advent
"The Lord is our righteousness"

The Prophet Proclaims "The Lord is our Righteousness"

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." (Jeremiah 33:14-16, NRSV)

What does the 1st Advent candle stand for?

The first candle in Advent symbolizes hope and is sometimes called the "Prophets' Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The "Prophets' Candle" is especially meaningful for our Chapel's journey through Advent, as we read the prophetic voices in the Old Testament.



Hope for a New Beginning

Jeremiah's prophecy, set against a backdrop of despair, points to a future of hope and renewal. The "righteous Branch" from David's line symbolizes a new beginning, a leader who embodies justice and righteousness. This is a promise made to a people who had lost their way, a declaration that God's commitment to His people had not wavered despite their failures.

In the context of Advent, this passage resonates deeply with us today. Advent is a season of waiting, of holding on to hope even when circumstances suggest otherwise. Jeremiah's words speak to this spirit of anticipation, to a God who fulfills promises in His own time. This "righteous Branch" is understood by Christians to be Jesus Christ, whose coming brings the justice and righteousness long awaited.

In times of hardship or when the world feels uncertain, the assurance of Jeremiah's prophecy reminds us that God's promises remain steadfast. The coming of the Messiah is not just an event of the past; it is an ongoing promise of God's presence with us, guiding us through seasons of darkness toward light. This passage invites us to lean into that hope, trusting that, as God was faithful to Israel, He will be faithful to us—through Christ, the true "Lord, Our Righteous Savior."

Prayer Box: pray for the soul of James M. and comfort for his grieving family and friends; pray for healing for Abby, Diane M, Tom N, Mark F, Don L, Bill C, Holland, Steve, John H, Patti, Susan S, Maggie and Vance; pray for those suffering from natural disasters, especially the flood victims in Roswell, NM, and the victims of flooding and wildfires in California and the NW US; pray for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Sudan.

Lord, Hear our Prayer!