

REFLECTION FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024
ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Today's gospel of Luke tells us about the second coming of Christ. It is a frightening litany of climate disasters and "distress among nations". It sounds familiar for in our own time many nations are at war and struggling with famine, climate disasters and the effects of war.

Our own country stands at a crossroad as we deal with such issues as hunger, bigotry and hate crimes. What are we to do?

In the Collect for today we are told to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Do all we can to radiate light in the darkness of sin and suffering.

In the first reading of Jeremiah, God says that he will bring a lineage of great leaders such as Jesse and David to ultimately save Jerusalem.

Throughout these readings God gives us hope for we see that He is with us and will save his beloved people of faith.

So, let us be on guard and do all we can to help and support others, both near and far. Wait and watch, we are told, for the glory that is coming to God's people.

Thus we arrive at the first Sunday of Advent. Let us be watchful and hopeful as we prepare for the birth of Christ in our hearts and homes, knowing that God is with us always, in good times and in bad.

I'd like to conclude with a prayer from the St. Jude Prayer Society. As some of you may know, St. Jude is the patron saint of Hope and impossible causes.

St. Jude Prayer for Advent

Lord Jesus, your power is infinite, your glory, everlasting. Quietly you come, as a tiny baby. Ready our hearts for the miracle of your birth. Bring light to this dark world, waiting silently for your warmth in the coldness of the night. Waiting is itself your gift, animating our hearts with anticipation.

Bless us with needed patience and faithful discipline to prayerfully prepare to welcome and greet you. St. Jude, eternal hope, let your holiness flow into us.

May Christmas joy and burning love take root in us and grow until they bloom on Christmas Day, to carry joy to the world and inspire hope to renew the face of the earth.

Amen

IRIS DARLING