

December 3-9, 2017 First Week of Advent

[Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
(2) Pss I]

Light one purple candle



Be Watchful! Be Alert! “...for you do not know when the time will come.” -Mk 13:33

This year Advent begins in December, a bit darker and colder than in past years when the calendar gave us an earlier start to the season. As immigrant companions, we also notice a less hospitable, colder climate toward immigrants than we have in past. We may feel hopeless and helpless as we watch years of progress in the acceptance of immigrants and refugees dissolve into distrust and hate. Today's readings urge us not to be passive: To turn to God, prepare for those saving moments that will transform us and our world.

The Prophet Isaiah tells us today that “we are the clay and you [God] the potter; we are the work of your hands”. We are not only God’s creation, but also God’s partners in creation and in repairing our broken world and our broken hearts. May we work for justice and acceptance in our communities, in our local and national governments, and around the world. Aid the individual in front of us and the suffering refugee thousands of miles away, for God's face is everywhere.

Let us not give up our struggle and witness for immigrants and refugees, whether it is through vigils, public witness, Posadas and Christmas pageants, or in home hospitality for those who are struggling to feed their families, or in purchasing fair trade presents that endure economic justice for the workers who create these gifts and serve as a reminder of our connection with people around the world.

Prayer: Loving God, may we begin this Advent season with the words of Jesus to “Awake!” and “Watch!” and be not only alert from our own place, but also actively seeking and bringing your presence love and compassion to others, through our good works and hearing hearts. Amen.