



Wednesday Prayer

1st Sunday in Advent – Community

But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven nor the Son, except the Father. “Keep on the lookout! Stay alert! For you do not know when the time is. It is like a man away on a journey. After leaving his house and putting his servants in charge and giving each his task, he also commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Therefore stay alert, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, when the rooster crows, or in the early morning. So watch in case, coming suddenly, he finds you asleep. What I say to you I say to all: ‘Stay alert!’”

Mark 13:32-37 (Tree of Life version)

During Advent we are in a time of preparation. We prepare for the birth of the Christ child, we prepare Christmas programs with the little ones in our churches, we prepare our homes for guests, but we may not be thinking of preparations for the *return* of Christ. In this Gospel passage from Mark, the servants of the house are each given a task in preparing for the return of Christ. They are told they must stay alert and keep watch. But they don't know the time of Christ's return – so how will they stay alert consistently and for an unknown amount of time? If left to just me, I would no doubt get weary and fall asleep. But rooted in community, supporting one another in our various tasks, I may have a chance.

“With community support, I was able to access the resources that allowed me to move forward.”

“We are securely rooted in our community.”

“Cultural community is so important...community action...I aspire to teach a class at the community center...”

These phrases about the significance of community come from survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking. These are leaders who recognize that alone we cannot achieve healing, and they have committed to support others in community. Everyone has a role. Together we can stay alert, live through the unknown timing, and keep watch.

Holy God, in our preparations, let us keep watch with one another. Rooted in community, let us come together to support one another, to assist in the waiting times. We wait for healing, we wait for peace, we await your coming. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.



We welcome you to share how you are working in community, or how community has provided you with support and strength.

Please share your thoughts at info@cherishallchildren.org.