



## Wednesday Prayer

### First Sunday of Advent – Faithfulness in the Present

**“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”**

**Luke 21:34-36**

Luke’s Gospel highlights the chaos and uncertainty in this world, advising that we stay alert for the kingdom of God is coming near. Considering the disconnect between an Advent season of waiting, staying alert, attentive to the works of God in our lives, and the realities of a holiday season filled with shopping, parties, and so much busyness – how do we stay faithful in the present? And how do we share a Gospel message of hope with the young people in our lives when they see so much division and hatred towards those who are most vulnerable?

In last week’s online newsletter “The Corners” by Nadia Bolz-Weber, she shared how the worries of today (and those throughout her life) seem so big in the moment yet are very small moments in God’s big story.

*“A story of God and God’s people that reaches back to the beginning of time, brushes the skin of the present and moves on into a future we cannot see...The beautiful thing about being a people of faith is how we are a very small part of a very big story.”*

The dominant story of the day is not the ultimate story. God carries us through even when we are too busy worrying, arguing, or even shopping to notice. So as we enter this season of Advent, I pray that our actions and words will reflect a God of hope and love for all, that young people will see our actions toward others and hear our words of peace as the way forward. At the Thanksgiving table, or while serving at a local shelter – engage in authentic conversations with the young people so they know we see them and deeply care. While the news cycle can be daunting and weigh us down, we can remind them of God’s faithfulness today and throughout time.

*“We are not a people of the 24 hour news cycle- we are a people of a sacred story.”*

**Everlasting God, be with us as we gather. Remind us that you hold the ultimate story and help us to remain faithful in these present days. Amen.**

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Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

Find Nadia Bolz-Weber’s newsletter and more at [Welcome - Nadia Bolz-Weber](#).