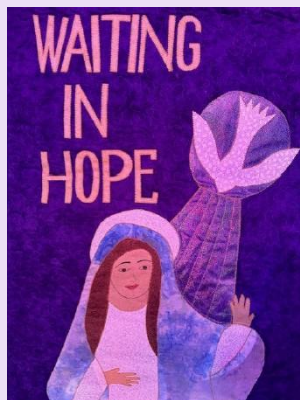




From the Desk of Father Peter

The Coming of the Lord Jesus

We continue the season of Advent and a new year in the Church's calendar. Some religious traditions like the Jesse tree and the Advent wreath that we see in church or have in our homes help us



to remember the long centuries that the Jewish people of old waited for the coming of the Messiah. By our sharing in the long preparation in any way we can for the Savior's coming, we renew our desire, anticipation, and hope of the Lord's coming again. Advent means "coming." Advent means hope for the future. Advent is a

time to be ready and alert, while waiting for our God's bountiful mercies.

What does the Church invite us to do during the season? We are invited to celebrate the plan of salvation by which God called the patriarchs and united them to himself in a covenant of love, which was established through Moses. He raised up the prophets and chose David as the one from whose line the Savior of the world was to be born. The books of the Old Testament, in fore-telling the coming of Christ, "gradually bring into clearer light the figure of a woman, the Mother of the Redeemer" Lumen Gentium no. 55. She is the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom the Church proclaims as the joy of Israel and the noble daughter of Zion. Mary becomes the model of our "yes" to God. Certainly a disposition like Mary's must be formed in us over time as we turn from sin and place ourselves at the service of God.

There is no need to fear the future. Each one of us can impact the future by living according to our faith teachings. By living out the beliefs of our faith, we prepare for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. I believe that Christ has come to us already at Bethlehem on that first Christmas. I believe he comes to us now, every day in such mysterious ways, as in prayer, grace, word and sacrament. I believe, like you do too, that there is yet another coming at the end of time, as judge of the living and the dead. This is the reason why we should contemplate the Lord's coming as a blessed season filled with faith, hope, joy, and peace.

We should be able to share our faith and tradition with those around us. We live in a noisy world, don't we? Cell phones, television, radio, emails, text messages, web pages—the stream is unending. And not only is it noisy, it is distracting. By living the spirit of Advent, we can encounter Jesus, who can transform us. No matter how embedded we are in our sins, if we look to Jesus, forgiveness is possible. In turn, we become stronger in our faith as we prepare for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.



Blessing and peace to all.

Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu