

Advent. The Coming. The Appearance. The Visitation.

Isaiah (ch. 2) calls out, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” As Jesus Christ comes to us in this season of waiting, we listen to his voice and the voice of the Spirit, we are reminded of Christ’s ways and walk in his paths (week 1). Unlike the seasonal advertising surrounding us--to buy our way into love, happiness, and warm feelings reminiscent of distant memories, the Spirit of Christ comes, appears, and visits us with courage to share. Courage to relate to others in conversation--To relate to God in prayer--To listen to our own souls in silent stillness.

Christ’s visitation is one of peace, in which enemies become friends (week 2-Isaiah 11). Wolves and lambs, cows and bears, lions and oxen, leopards and goats, all peacefully relating because they are no longer competing but sharing resources and space. Christ appears as Joy for those who bring justice to the oppressed and forgotten (week 3-Isaiah 35). Finally, Christ visits us (week 4-Isaiah 7) as Emmanuel, God with us.

Advent is upon us. The Spirit of Christ is visiting us. Let us make room for his presence, courage, and joy to live our lives faithfully, expectantly, and full of hope. Let us make room for Christ in this holy season of Lent. –

Gratefully, *Pastor Roy*