



BO'S BLOG

It is Advent, and again we are waiting.

It is the waiting we do each year for the birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem. But the waiting we do now, at the beginning of the church's liturgical year, is just a continuation of the waiting we celebrated at the end of the church's liturgical year on Christ the King Sunday. That day we talked about waiting for Christ the King and Judge to come on the last day—an event that has not yet occurred. The next week, the first Sunday of Advent, we were waiting again, looking back to the wait for the Christ's birth. Like the Israelites of old, we are living in the time between receiving God's Word, and living in God's reign.

And like the world around the Israelites, at times our world can seem very dark. There is still poverty and hunger around the world. Refugees still die each day from lack of food, water, shelter, or medicine. There is still cholera in Haiti and ruined homes in New Orleans. Budget cuts in nations and states increase unemployment and decrease services to those in need. Leaders behave more like children, and people turn their backs on their neighbor's needs because they don't want to give up any of what's "theirs." There are many around this world who pray to God words much like these from Godspell—"Where are you going? Where are you going? Can you take me with you? For my hand is cold, and needs warmth. Where are you going?"

Unlike the world of the Israelites of old, though, we live in a time in which God is continually at work. The people who lived in darkness have seen a great light. The incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, and the gift of the Holy Spirit has changed our world. We live in a time when we pray "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." It is our calling, as we remember the wait for the birth of Christ, and await his coming again, to be the light in the dark world, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned. We are to spread God's light everywhere, because God's light has been shed in our hearts.

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining!

Shalom,

Bo