

December 18, 2011

Dear Friends,

Waiting, watching, preparing. This is the work of Advent. The world floods us with the business of Christmas – shopping, baking, decorating, planning, parties, and families begin to almost take over our lives. But the gift of the church to us in this time of year is the reminder that we need to slow ourselves down; quiet the noise; watch, wait and prepare for the One who is coming into the world. And it is more than just waiting for the Christ child to come in Bethlehem. We watch and wait for Christ to come into our everyday world as well.

One of the reasons I am so excited to come to St. Michael and All Angels is because I think you know where to look as you watch and wait for Christ to come into your world. You know that he is found in the faces of the children you serve at Holiday Cheer. You understand that he can be seen in the smiles of the people you feed. You get that it is Jesus you meet when you visit the prisoner. You seem to have a handle on the fact that Christ is the one who enters when you welcome the stranger, the lonely, the afflicted or the marginalized. You get it.

In Advent we are reminded that we must always be watching for Christ who is coming. And Jesus always shows up in the most unexpected ways.

This Advent has been a special time of anticipation and waiting for me as I prepare to come to you. I would guess you have the same feeling as you wait and anticipate welcoming me to St. Michael's. And the waiting will soon come to an end. The time is almost here. I am happy to report that I was successful in finding a wonderful apartment located just a little over two miles from the church. Soon it will be time to start packing.

It is Advent. The time to watch, wait and prepare for Jesus who enters our world – and the secret is that he does not only come at Christmas. He shows up in our world every day. Where will you find him? I have a pretty good suspicion that I will find him in you.

I wish each of you a blessed Advent season, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan Justin", followed by a small cross symbol.

The Rev. Dan Justin
Rector Elect