

Pastor Roy's sermon from November 29, 2015 (1st Sunday of Advent)

What time is it? We are meeting at 5:00. It's lunch time! I'm scheduled for work at 6. We are leaving at 9:00. How much can I get done today? When is that deadline? I am double booked! Then there is the kind of time related to when something needs to be done. Time to get the oil changed, paint, sort through clutter, or pay taxes. And when we know we are procrastinating, we feel the stress. With most things, if we don't complete them, there will be trouble. etc. Sometimes we don't realize it is time to act, or that we have missed an opportunity. . . .And all this talk of time and stuff to do makes me feel stress and I *even* tried to avoid the things that are on *my* must-do very soon list!

What time is it? For Christians, it is Advent time. Advent is about the coming of God into our world. When this happens in the Scriptures, the call goes out to prepare for the Day of God's judgment for the poor and weary and the broken hearted. It is a time for waiting for justice. The coming of the Lord means expecting major economic and social change. Advent is the time to listening for my part in it all. You see, Advent is not a time to muster up some warm fuzzy nostalgia for Christmas cheer. It is not more of the same in different packaging.

And in the cultural season of "It's time to do just about everything(!)," we have four weeks of intentional Christian non-doing. It's *crazy*, in the midst of all the things we just can't help but do, we are called to ***not*** get lost in our doing. So, yes, go do, but while you do, hold back a bit and remember that in all of this doing, we are also *not doing*. We are preparing, waiting, expecting, and, most importantly, listening. We are remembering that our salvation, our hope, our joy, our peace is not found in doing, but in simply being.

Remember! It is in *this* moment, *this* relationship, *this* invitation to make all things new that we find God. Let us not forget our main task in Advent. Discerning the presence and will of God in this moment. When we find God, we also find ourselves and those around us. We become open. We become alive.

Lord, teach us to remember your justice and mercy. Teach us to remember your presence when we are distracted by doing and going. Distracted from simply being with ourselves and those around us. Teach us to rest in trust. Amen.