

FROM YOUR PASTOR November, 2015

Sunshine and rainy days, also less light, as well as leaves falling, and a chill in the air are signs of the season. November is a month of transitions and we notice change in worship. “Oh when the saints go marching in ... O Lord I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in!” Most of us know these words. Sunday November 1 is All Saints Day and the song expresses a desire to follow the saints both in their way of life and their heavenly procession.

Moving on in the Church Year, by the time we arrive at Sunday November 22 we sing: “Oh, worship the King, all glorious above. Oh gratefully sing his pow’r and his love;” We acknowledge that God’s dominion is everywhere. All peoples, all nation, all tongues serve God. There is nothing that can destroy God’s reign even though it’s not as if people don’t try.

Throughout the ages, we know rulers and ordinary people, have tried to stop the spread of God’s word and to sidetrack the message of the promise God made and offered humanity since creation: You are mine and I love you. According to my reading of Holy Scripture God has been trying to mold us into a loving people who follow the covenant and thus desire a different world order. Hoping as we do for right relationships among all, we are actually empowered by the Holy Spirit to follow in the way, the truth, and the life Jesus’ promised.

By the time Sunday November 29 appears on our calendars, we begin to celebrate the flesh and blood - Word - who lived among humans and his name was Jesus. Singing we exclaim: “ Come, thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free; From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee.” Yes, followers of Jesus have found ways to give witness and praise for what God has done.

Advent is our time to hold on to the love God shows us in Jesus. Even in spite of our fears and anxieties; there may be times that overwhelm us; there may be chaotic times that seem like the end. But we who believe in Jesus are to remain vigilant and awake, not lulled into despair or apathy. Our Lord Jesus continues at the center of our lives as we who trust in God go on in the way which all “saints go marching in.” November is a dynamic time of change as we move through and wrap up one sequence of time and embark on another Christian Year’s cycle.

As another year of grace comes into sight, may God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in true faith, so that we give evidence of who is at the heart of our lives.

In Christ’s Love and Peace,
Pastor Folmar