

## ***Advent with Tish Harrison Warren. On Yearning and Longing***

“Christians of all traditions are finding a renewed appreciation for the church year.” (1)

“Advent means ‘coming.’” Advent is a paradoxical season, at once past, present, and future. Ancient yet urgent (4-5).

1. *Adventus redemptionis* – the coming of Christ in redemption.
2. *Adventus glorificamus* – the coming in glory.
3. *Adventus santificationis* – the coming of Christ in our present moment (of holy things). (4)

We take part in corporate longing of Abraham, Jacob, Rahab, Moses, Miriam, Isaiah, and Ruth. We are bearing their burdens and their stories.

O Antiphon (Evening Prayers - Dec 17-23). Using the first letter in each of the antiphons, when spelled backwards, we hear *ero cras*, Latin for “I will be (there) tomorrow.”

- The first coming of Christ should not be taken for granted, nor should its significance be consigned to the past. We (must) begin to feel the need for a deliverer again.
1. O Wisdom! You come from the mouth of the most high. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come to teach us the way of Truth.
  2. O Adonai and leader of Israel! You appeared to Moses in a burning bush and you gave him the law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty hand.
  3. O Root! O stock of Jesse, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O come to deliver us and do not delay.
  4. O Key of David! And sceptre of Israel, what you open no one can close again; what you close no one can open. O come to me a captive in prison, free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.
  5. O Light! O rising sun, you are the splendour of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. Dec 21 \*shortest day of the year.
  6. O King of the Nations whom all the nations desire, you are the cornerstone which makes us all one. O come and save man whom you made from clay.
  7. O Emmanuel! You are our king and judge the one whom the people await and their saviour. O come and save us Lord our God. God with us.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5mZFiOAI539o4hA5k1kcEk?si=0f271674afba4c25>

At Pentecost, this promise is fulfilled. “The ‘distance’ between Peter-the-disciple and Peter-the-apostle is far greater than that between Peter and us.” (Michael Horton). We live with Peter on this side of Pentecost.

Fleming Rutledge. *Adventus glorificamus* is the chief and most important focus of Advent... uncomfortably and unavoidably apocalyptic, more concerned with vast cosmic battle. (A new heaven and a new earth) (see pg. 21).

### Waiting and Hope.

- In eternity, we will no longer need these virtues. Love alone lasts. Faith and hope are *waiting virtues*. We cannot embrace true hope without acknowledging the pain and sinfulness of the world and our lives.
- Advent helps to wean us off our little hopes, our false hopes, and teaches us to place our confidence in the true hope of the world.

### Darkness and light.

- Darkness is the realm of brokenness, sin, and deception, associated with guilt, shame, and hiddenness. Light has come into the world. \*Think northern hemisphere.
- Advent moves us to name what is dark in the world and in our own lives and to invite the light of Christ into each shadowy corner.

### Repentance and Rest.

- We accentuate the contrast between the perfect purity of Christ and the brokenness of the world he came to purify, judge, and save.
- Advent turns us from sin toward true rest; rest that comes, in the end, as a gift.

### Emptiness and Filling.

- God fills what is empty. The land with trees and plants. The sky with sun and moon. The sea with swimming things. The earth with life. The hungry with good things; Empty wombs with life. Empty skies with angels. Empty mangers with light.
- Fill the land. Fill the Ark. Fill the tank. Be filled with the Spirit.
- Advent recalls the emptiness of the world, our hurry, our quest for buying power, fame, success, politics, or religiosity. We wait instead with Mary, with Elizabeth, with all creation, for our emptiness to be filled.
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*The Lord has Come. The Lord is Near. The Lord is Coming. Maranatha!*