

WEEKLY E-LETTER - Nov. 28, 2017

Grace and Peace to you this week! Throughout Advent I will be sharing material from an Advent Retreat by Janice MacLean. If you want to enroll for the entire email retreat please go to

<https://prayerbench.ca/>

The blue shadows of Advent beckon us. Advent is the time to hold our endings even as we cradle our beginnings. It is the time of walking emerging paths even as we embrace the ancient. We take stock even as look forward. We make our way through darkness and light. This is Advent. May our journey be blessed as we explore Advent together over these next four weeks.

Please read the gospel for the first Sunday in Advent - Mark 13:24-37.

It is always a shock to come to the first reading in Advent and confront the apocalyptic images of darkened night skies, stars falling from heaven, and angels gathering up the chosen handful. What's with these end-time readings? In the 19th century, Advent was chosen as the time in the circle of the church year when the signs of the time would be considered. They were to encourage thinking about the comings of Jesus.

Take time now to look back over your year since last Advent. When were things really, really hard? When did you know endings that wrenched your soul and shook you to your very core? When were you sad or fearful or lonely? Give space. Give space. Give space for honouring the times of your life.

What were the treasures of the darkness? Were there ways Hope visited? Did Peace ever creep inside beside you? Did Joy laugh? Did Love whisper your name in the watches of the night?

There are end-times. Always there are endings.

There are end-times and new-birth coming.

Perhaps it is far-off, perhaps it is close at hand, perhaps it is within you even now.

Always a circle —
winter and summer, night and day, death and life, darkness and light.

Always a circle of hope, of peace, of joy,
Always Love.
Therefore, keep watch.
Don't go back to sleep.

ADVENT SPIRITUAL PRACTICE- Sacred Art-Making

Take out your crayons or borrow some from the kids or grandkids, and pretend you have been commissioned to create a stained glass window depicting the message of this reading for your soul this Advent, what would you design?

See you Sunday for The Hanging of the Greens!

Advent Blessings,

Rose~Hannah