



A Reflection for Advent One

Readings - 1 Corinthians 3. 3-9 & Mark 13. 24-37

Today is the beginning of Advent. It is a time of waiting as the church prepares to welcome the baby Jesus. In our waiting over the coming four weeks we are encouraged to reflect upon God's eternal plan for all of creation. Hence the reading from Mark's Gospel.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Jesus is asking us to consider the possibility that Yahweh will intervene in his world. God will act as sovereign and bring history to an end thus ushering in a new world. 'Keep awake' is a reminder for us to live in the knowledge that God's existence is tangibly close and God is always there.

As we begin this time of Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's Son. Let us not be found wanting, sleeping in sin but awake to righteousness as we rejoice and celebrate unconditional love that is to be discovered in a stable in Bethlehem. May our hearts and minds be so purified that we may be made ready to receive his promise of eternal life.

Let us embrace the darkness of waiting and of not knowing what is to come. As we keep awake, making ready and attentive to our God of love.

'Keep awake, be always ready, God's time approaches sure and steady, God's strength will keep your heart from blame. Clouds, the Spirit's light concealing, disperse, God's purest light revealing; creation will it's Sovereign name. Dry branches burst forth green, God's advent signs are seen; Hallelujah! Christ's judgment won, God's will be done; God's new dominion thus begun.'

Words by Arthur G Clyde

Thank you for reading and please keep safe.

The Reverend Nick Devenish

*Adrian's music choice for Advent One. Communion: Hark, the glad sound- Merritt
Psalm: 80. 1-8 Organ: Wachet auf! - Bach*

*If you are able, join me for a service of holy communion from The Priory.
Live streaming from 10.55am. Please go to the Cartmel Priory Facebook page.*

Image - 'The Destruction of Jerusalem' by Wilhelm von Kaulbach