

1st Advent - A 2019-2020
Is. 2.1-5///Romans 13.11-14///Matt. 24.37-44

→even though it has gone off the air, one of my favorite television shows in reruns is the “Big Bang Theory”

→and if you are familiar with the show you know that the opening credits and song shows, in a matter of seconds, the progress of the human species from its humblest beginnings to the present age....and I make reference to this because it reminds me of a book I read once entitled...."The Third Wave"

→similar to the Big Bang Theory’s opening credits, the book is also about the study of the human race...from our humble beginnings to our present state....

→and the main thrust of the book is to point out that we are currently at a turning point in history.....----the beginning of what the book calls the third wave of civilization

→the book states that the first wave of civilization came thousands of years ago in the form of the agricultural revolution

→it summarizes that the human race gradually changed from being wandering nomads to becoming a settled population, living on farms, and in villages, and towns

→**and this change** came about because we learned how to cultivate crops and care for ourselves

→the book then goes on to say that the second wave of civilization started sometime in the 1600’s at the time of the Industrial Revolution

→with the appearance of the factory and the whole era of manufacturing....there grew a new urban culture and a new way of life

→.....new breakthroughs on how to make things created a new way of existence
...inventions, discoveries, and innovations.....lead us to eventually become dominated by the
clock and calendar....culminating in the 40 hour work week and around the clock
manufacturing and activity.

→and finally the book states that the third wave, as profound as the previous two, began in
mid-1950's with the introduction of the computer, and the birth of mass communication
through television and a deluge of information....

→[and] today...we are in the heart of this third wave with all the technological advances we
have and continue to experience each day

→and as each day passes, the third wave gains in momentum while the second wave
seems to be losing momentum....

PAUSE

→today is 1st Sunday of Advent, you might say we are also in a new wave as well especially
in our faith

→because today is when we leave the old behind and start a new

→we start a new liturgical season, a new Church year, and a renewed time of waiting for
God

→and today's Scripture readings launch us forward into this new beginning,

→our gospel reading from Matt. -----talks about the end the world happening in order to
reveal the coming of the kingdom of God.

--Paul in his letter to the Romans tells us that the hour is upon us to awake from our sleep and get ready

--and finally the prophet Isaiah foretells us that in the coming days all will stream toward and look for the kingdom of God here on earth

→and so, this Sunday begins the season of waiting for God to come, of preparing for the coming of the Lord

→the basic message of the Gospel today, and every Advent is tostay awake...be on guard...be prepared....for the Lord is coming at a time you least expect

---that is what Advent is all about

---and that is what our faith is about

PAUSE

→we gather here each week, as people of committed to the Gospel, we strive to be like Christ waiting with anxious hearts for His coming, in the same way young children wait with anxious hearts for Christmas morning.

→but you see the difference between what is happening in here as opposed to what is happening out there...//.....is that as the world is waiting for a holiday...while we await the coming of Christ.

→[and]....perhaps at no other time of the year is our Church more counter-cultural than right now....

→because everywhere in our world, and in our lives and homes we are getting ready for Christmas...and yet here in Church, the scripture, the liturgy, urges us to get ready for the coming of Christ at the end of time

PAUSE

→[and] Advent is the continuation of the story that begun in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago...Jesus came to us from heaven to a manger....and today's gospel urges us to remember that story....remember it by being vigilant, by being awake and by being ready for the Lord when he comes

---and so for our part...Advent is a time for preparing, but unlike the world out there that is preparing for Christmas, our preparation in here is about preparing for the coming of Christ in his kingdom

---a time for us to prepare to meet Christ face to face

---a time for us to prepare for our eternal life...///....

---a time for us to be a light of hope for one another

---as Matt. Writes to us....."the Lord is coming, the Lord is going to return at the time you least expect."

→Dec. 25 remembers and celebrates the beginning

---Advent, this Advent and every Advent is about our preparing and waiting for the end

→and so, on this 1st Sunday of Advent, we begin...and continue.....our preparation and waiting for the Lord.

→...in this precious time....let us use this Advent time to once again.....not to look forward to the birthday of Jesus

→but instead to look forward to the coming of Christ in his kingdom,

--a kingdom that all of us someday hope share in

--and perhaps better yet....let us use this time to remind ourselves to stay awake...to be prepared and to get ready for ...the wonders of his love.