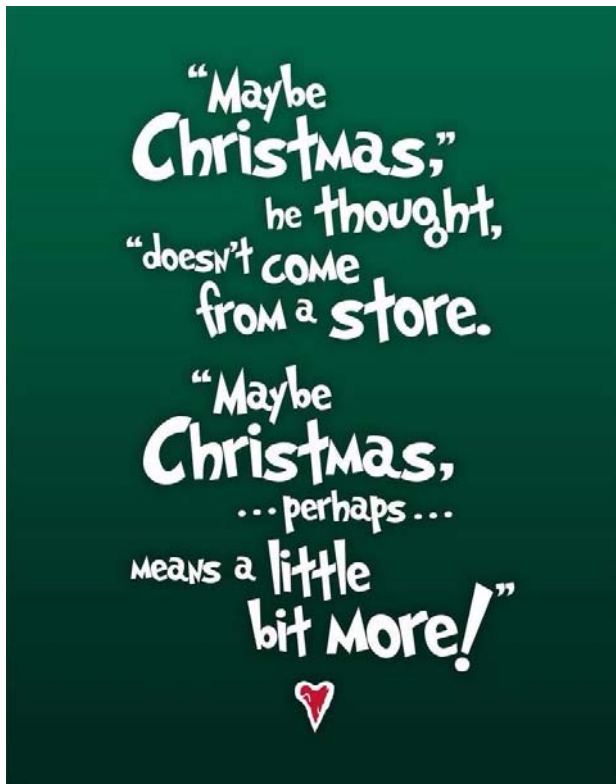


The Hectic Pace of Advent as a Call to Confession

December 6, 2016

Excerpt by Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor
from "Advent," *This Day: A Wesleyan Way of Prayer*, by Laurence H. Stookey

The pressures of scheduling that many people feel during Advent cause us to recall the opening words of a poem by William Wordsworth:



"The world is too much with us; late and soon, getting and spending, we lay waste our powers: Little we see in Nature that is ours."

As we rush from our social engagement to another, as we shop, and travel, and bake, and cook, and decorate, and send cards, and wrap gifts the world seems far much with us. And yet, that world is the very world God loved so much as to send Jesus into it! So in some sense the world is not with us enough, if our getting and spending distract us from it.

Ironically, even the Advent tasks of the church can distract us: the many services and the necessary preparation for them, the added social gatherings within the congregation - even these can put us further out of contact with the world God

so loves. Thus Advent may compel us to confess: Lord, in preparing to see you more fully, remove from us all that competes with your way for us; quiet us down, that we may be still and know that you are God. Amen.

remembering dr. stookey

