

Advent

A tradition of waiting and perseverance

Pastor Tim Brisson

Traditions

There is nothing which is quite as blind and so utterly foolish and unintelligent as to ignore the past entirely and to jettison everything that has been handed on by tradition simply because it comes on to us from the past.

That a thing has been believed for centuries does not prove that it is true, but it certainly ought to cause us to think seriously and ponder long before we lightly throw it overboard.

Old Testament Evangelistic Sermons, 152, David Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Psalm 13 (NRSV)

Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

- 1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
- 3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
- 4 and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.
- 5 But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
- 6 I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

The Light arrives

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:1–5, NRSV)

Notes:

Lectionary for 1st Sunday of Advent

“The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!” (Isaiah 2:1–5, NRSV)

“Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” (Romans 13:11–14, NRSV)

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” (Matthew 24:36–44, NRSV)

“A Song of Ascents. Of David. I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.” For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.” For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.” (Psalm 122, NRSV)

Questions for discussion:

- 1) Meditate on Isaiah 2:1-5. Is there anything that is preventing you from “walking in the light of the Lord”?
- 2) Meditate on Romans 13:11-14 and Matthew 24:36-44. Both describe not falling asleep spiritually, and remaining in the light. Are you spiritually ready for Jesus’ return?

Notes:
