

HOMILY: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 2nd 2018

INTRODUCTION

Advent is "WAKE UP" TIME! BE ALERT; BE ATTENTIVE to the CHOICES I MAKE in MY LIFE.-A NEW SEASON begins TODAY THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT. THERE ARE STEPS I MUST TAKE IN the RIGHT DIRECTION IN MY LIFE. NEWNESS is in THE AIR. I MUST CHOOSE NOW ! The catch cry of this FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT is NOT LOUD or CLAMORING . THERE is a QUIETNESS about TODAY THAT ONLY A CERTAIN INNER STILLNESS CAN HEAR IT. THE BRUSQUE AND ARROGANT NOISE OF THE COMMERCIAL WORLD merely points ME to a VULGAR and SYNTHETIC EXPRESSION OF THIS

SEASON. 'COARSENESS' is TODAY'S
GOSPEL DESCRIPTION. THE STILL
SMALL VOICE OF GOD is CROWJESUS
TO ME TODAY is "STAY AWAKE"
BRACE MYSELF WITH CONFIDENCE.—
TRAVEL THE WAY OF
LITTLENESS AND GENTLENESS,
WEAKNESS AND SMALLNESS.—
OSTENTATION is NOT an ADVENT
TRAIT. JEREMIAH ARTICULATES FOR
ME THIS MORNING THAT I CHOOSE
HUMILITY AND INTEGRITY ARE THE
ONES THAT "REALLY CELEBRATE.
YOU SEE ADVENT IS ABOUT THE GOD
OF SMALL THINGS IN MY LIFE. ABOUT
ALL THE ISSUES OF EGOTISM AND
SELF CENTEREDNESS IN MY LIFE AND
ENCOURAGING ME TO COME OUT OF
MYSELF to a NEW KIND OF FREEDOM
and BIGNESS of HEART where
SORROW AND JOY in my life can both

ASCENT STEPS to OUR MEETING
PLACE WITH GOD.

Can be DIMINISHING

THINGS DEPLORED in MY LIFE is never
EASY. It is more than difficult to LIFT
oneself up when around us all the
TIME there are those who DECRY THE
ADVENT STORY and DECLARE IT
FABLE AND FALSE. AND it Can be
DIMINISHING things that BREAK US;
a HARSH WORD; A CYNICAL GLANCE;
A THOUGHTLESS GESTURE. YET THE
CALL from GOD TO me IS TO BE
BIGGER. And ASCEND ; TO BOLDEN
AND STAY AWAKE to TRUST in THE
GOD OF SMALL THINGS.

LUKE'S ADMONITION TODAY IS

DIRECT: ` STAY AWAKE ...KEEP

PRAYING.. STAND WITH

CONFIDENCE. ALL WILL BE WELL. IN

THE WORDS OF THE OLD JAPANESE

PROVERB: KEEP A GREEN BOUGH IN

YOUR HEART AND THE SINGING BIRD
WILL COME. THE DENOUMENT of THE
ADVENT STORY is CENTERED ON
ASCENT—ASCENT THROUGH
SIMPLICITY . WONDER AND AWE. –
ALL OF US CAN BE FULL OF HOPE
EVEN IN OUR HOPELESSNESS. WE
ARE ALL ENLARGED BY THIS SEASON.
WRESTLING WITH GOD is the BEST
OF ACTIVITIES so LET ME CHOOSE TO
WRESTLE NOW. AMEN