

ADVENT MUSINGS

We come to church every week as a community which remembers, which comes to meet the risen Christ in you, in me, in what we do together, in trust and in hope. We need to be alert to each other and to the God we love and seek to know, to get close; this is what we mean by the immanence of God- right here, right now.

Prepared for what? Perhaps we can see ourselves in a time of uncertainty, feeling more than a little perplexed, but what Jesus seems to be saying to us is that we are to be in an active process of expectation, it demands being alert awake for an encounter with the risen Christ; for me it is the bit that is ours to do.

To quote” We are not expected to know everything but we are expected to do something”.[[1]](#footnote-1) When God calls we are to listen, listening is expectant prayer. Mary Oliver the poet says,***“ I don’t know exactly what prayer is. I do know how to pay attention.”***[[2]](#footnote-2) I think she puts her finger on it –to pay attention. ”***It must be deep down we are creatures getting ready for when we are needed….Just on the other side of the door someone is about to knock and our life is about to change and finally after all those years behind the curtain, we might just be ready to go on.*”[[3]](#footnote-3)**

Hope will come not from our actions but from our God, and it is important to keep awake to the needs of others – Jesus may appear as the hungry person on the street, or the leering alcoholic at the party, or the woman in the charity shop who has no money but needs a cooking pot. This is the sacred ground upon which we stand- knowing God is with us, Christ within us and in all our encounters, keep alert. Let us know that God is the air that we breathe and the prayer that we speak. Let us be ready to hope when there appears to be none. ***Just on the other side of the door someone is about to knock and our life is about to change and finally after all those years behind the curtain, we might just be ready to go on.[[4]](#footnote-4)***

***KAY***

1. Feasting on the Word Year A Volume 1, 23. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Mary Oliver- A Summer’s Day [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. David Whyte – Waiting to go on [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-4)