

Sunday, November 29, 2015

## 1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

The first candle lit in the Advent Wreath represents the presence and hope of Christ.

*For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, "Do not fear; I will help you."*

***Isaiah 41:13***

Christ is the one constant in our chaotic world today. Knowing that shores me up and brings peace and light to my life journey. Though we all experience ups and downs in our lives, how assuring it is to be called His and knowing, through faith, that the light of Christ is such a light that darkness can never extinguish. Never.

The body of Christ that we have through fellowship with our church family here at First Presbyterian Church in North Palm Beach and other believers in our community and around the globe, represents the presence of Christ among us. Matthew 18:20 says, "For whenever two or three of you are gathered in My name, there I am also." Such a gift!

Advent is all about anticipation and expectation of the arrival of the Christ child...the One Gift that dramatically changed our world. Still, this gift continues to impact lives today and everyday as hearts are turned toward God and salvation is claimed.

I've been thinking about what God might be hoping that we gain from experiencing this Advent season. So this season, each week in worship as we light the candles, sing the hymns and hear the message, I am focusing on the anticipation as a personal exercise of listening to discover just what it is that our Lord will reveal to me anew.

Then, when I do hear this quiet whisper or loud shout from Him, I must determine just how He would have me apply it to glorify Him. Each day we have is a real gift and it is a privilege to be able to move along our life journey, in whatever state, living our best lives reflecting the glow of Christ's presence with us.

*Heavenly Father, Thank You for the most precious gift of our Lord Jesus Christ, who enables us to live with the blessed assurance of life eternal. Amen.*

**Pat Stewart**