



Wednesday Prayer

3rd Sunday of Advent – Go, in awareness

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

Matthew 11:2-5

John was in prison wondering what was going on with this Jesus. It seemed to John that he had taken a great risk to proclaim Jesus as the promised one, and the risk had failed. John's disciples were sent on a mission to poke at Jesus a bit, to confirm John's failure. Jesus told the emissaries to look at what had already happened in this new reign. John had incomplete information as he sat in prison, but Jesus had been at work healing, cleansing, raising the dead and sharing good news.

Often, we have incomplete information. We do not have a full picture of what Jesus is doing in our midst. When witnesses come to us who share good news: The vulnerable young are being made whole, injustice is being exposed, some people in power are shifting their views in favor of those most in need, communities are rising up and healing, cleansing and protecting...and through this are bringing good news to the world – we are like John, awakening to things we have not seen.

We are seeing injustice being exposed in recent cases against high profile perpetrators of sexual violence, people are becoming more aware of what survivors have endured for years and decades of years, laws are being changed to support survivors and bring perpetrators to justice. Churches are starting the process of awakening to the trauma experienced by many in their midst. In this season of Advent, we are waiting for the good news, and waiting to be renewed by the loving actions of Jesus.

This Advent may you ask John's question, and receive the same answer, “Go in the awareness of what Jesus has done...the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.”

Bring us hope as we wait and work for justice. Awaken us to our neighbors in need of safe, loving actions, and guide us to support the vulnerable in our churches and communities. Amen.

Written by Pastor Nathan Tuff, Olivet Lutheran Church, Sylvania Ohio & Cherish All Children Advisory Board Member. *(Reprinted from 2019, as a very fitting message for today as well.)*