

# *Advent Reflections*

*December 7, 2019*



*“Good things come to those who wait.”*

Today’s reading had me thinking about how the speed of Time is relative to the current circumstances in our lives and what we are anticipating. If something dreadful is approaching (April 15th, work deadlines, dental appointments, Mondays, the last day of summer vacation), time seems to fly at twice its regular speed. If something wonderful is ahead (a new baby in the family, a wedding, Holidays, and the start of summer vacation), time seems to slow down. Time also travels exponentially slower when we find ourselves in difficult situations (during labor, sitting in the dentist’s chair, [I presume] sitting in detention, and health issues). When time is passing slowly, we wish we could speed it up to get past the current hardships and get to better times. When time is flying, we wish we could slow it down. But we can’t do either and that’s okay; we don’t have to. In this Reading we are assured that there will be better times ahead. We can know that the Lord will provide good things to us. By understanding this concept, we can better control our perception of Time and let Time simply pass.

In today’s reading, I was reminded of two things my mother told me when I was young. “Patience is a Virtue” and “All things come in God’s Time.” What was true then is true now. We should not be anxious or look too far ahead. In Philippians 4:6, we are told “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

In Isaiah 41:10, the Lord tells us, "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." The Lord tells us in today's Reading, that He will see us through our times of trial. There is no need to be fretful; He will provide for our needs. In today's encouraging Psalm, we are told "Blessed are all who wait for the Lord." May we all appreciate every moment we are given.

*"Good things come to those who wait."*

*Jodi Shelly,*

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**Reading 1**     [IS 30:19-21, 23-26](#)

Thus says the Lord GOD,  
the Holy One of Israel:  
O people of Zion, who dwell in Jerusalem,  
no more will you weep;  
He will be gracious to you when you cry out,  
as soon as he hears he will answer you.  
The Lord will give you the bread you need  
and the water for which you thirst.  
No longer will your Teacher hide himself,  
but with your own eyes you shall see your Teacher,  
While from behind, a voice shall sound in your ears:  
"This is the way; walk in it,"  
when you would turn to the right or to the left.

He will give rain for the seed  
that you sow in the ground,  
And the wheat that the soil produces  
will be rich and abundant.  
On that day your flock will be given pasture  
and the lamb will graze in spacious meadows;  
The oxen and the asses that till the ground  
will eat silage tossed to them  
with shovel and pitchfork.  
Upon every high mountain and lofty hill  
there will be streams of running water.  
On the day of the great slaughter,  
when the towers fall,  
The light of the moon will be like that of the sun  
and the light of the sun will be seven times greater  
like the light of seven days.

On the day the LORD binds up the wounds of his people,  
he will heal the bruises left by his blows.

**Responsorial Psalm** [PS 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6](#)

**R. (see Isaiah 30:18d) Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.**

Praise the LORD, for he is good;  
sing praise to our God, for he is gracious;  
it is fitting to praise him.

The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem;  
the dispersed of Israel he gathers.

**R. Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.**

He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.  
He tells the number of the stars;  
he calls each by name.

**R. Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.**

Great is our LORD and mighty in power:  
to his wisdom there is no limit.  
The LORD sustains the lowly;  
the wicked he casts to the ground.

**R. Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.**

**Alleluia** [IS 33:22](#)

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The LORD is our Judge, our Lawgiver, our King;  
he it is who will save us.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** [MT 9:35–10:1, 5A, 6-8](#)

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages,  
teaching in their synagogues,  
proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom,  
and curing every disease and illness.

At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them  
because they were troubled and abandoned,  
like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples,  
"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;  
so ask the master of the harvest  
to send out laborers for his harvest."

Then he summoned his Twelve disciples  
and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out  
and to cure every disease and every illness.

Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them thus,  
"Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.  
As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'  
Cure the sick, raise the dead,  
cleanse lepers, drive out demons.  
Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."