

2nd Sunday of Advent “B”
2017

When the referee blows his whistle – there’s short hush as all are waiting to hear the call – and then the cheering or the jeering begins. But the whistle gets your attention. Like when Dad points in the rear view mirror and says, “If I have to pull this car over you’ll all regret it!” That speech is one that will make little hands find their own laps and bring the car to a hush – even if only for a short while.

In the dead of the night a whimper calls from the bedroom of a small child – and that single voice will wake parents up from across the house and send them to see what is wrong. A phone call from a long lost friend in the midst of great chatter calls for one to ask others to become quiet as they answer and hear what this voice has to say.

What are the voices that are calling to you – voices like John’s from the desert? His voice is calling us to look up – to quiet down – to open our hearts because Christ is coming. This same call comes to us even now – and we need to make sure that we have ears that can hear.

That call can be one that is weak – a fragile voice of someone who is sick – or has become tired from the burdens of life. The call of aging parents – of a friend who is battling a disease – of a child who has become frightened by a dream – or a teenager that has lost direction in life.

The voice from the wilderness may be from a friend who has lost their way in life and looks to you for support. It may come in the form of a brother or a sister who for the fourth time is asking for your help in getting them out of the same situation. The cry may come from your own heart – with a pleading to change where you’re headed – or just a reminder that you need to slow down – or count your blessings.

Each of these calls is like that of St. John bursting forth from the desert with a proclamation that Christ is near. They come to us brimming with the possibility of seeing God present among us.

The tenderness of a parent with a sick or frightened child brings them the tenderness of Jesus. The patience to sit with family and friends during chemotherapy or other treatment no matter what it does to your schedule is bringing them the patience of God. The love of reaching out to people who call on you for help is showing Christ’s compassion. The rescuing of someone who is drowning – even in if they’ve thrown themselves overboard – is bringing them the forgiveness of our God. Stopping to take a moment to renew yourself – especially during the chaos that is sometimes our lives – is surrounding yourself with the love of Christ.

What voice is calling out to you from the desert today? What opportunity to bring Jesus is presenting itself to you? Listen carefully – hear the voices of spouses – children – parents – family – friends or complete strangers. Listen and be for them Christ’s love.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

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