

## 3rd Sunday in Advent - Year A - December 11, 2016

### Meeting the Lord in our Lives

What word was mentioned in all three readings and in the Psalm today?

[Some answers: "The" (yes), "of" (yes), "Lord" (only in 3 readings)  
"God" (only in 2 readings) "to" (only in 2 readings).]

The word I am thinking about and would like to concentrate on is  
"come".

Isaiah:

Here is your God,  
he **comes** with vindication;  
with divine recompense  
he **comes** to save you.

Psalm 146:

Lord, **come** and save us. (the refrain) [also in NAB-RE version, vs 9].

James:

Be patient, brothers and sisters,  
until the **coming** of the Lord.

...

Make your hearts firm,  
because the **coming** of the Lord is at hand.

Matthew: John the Baptist asks Jesus:

"Are you the one who is to **come**,  
or should we look for another?"

Here in this Advent season the coming of the Lord is prominent.

Even the word "advent" means "come".

A refrain that is so common to this time of the year is:

"Come Lord Jesus!"

Here's a sign with an arrow inviting Jesus to come, to come here.

"Come Lord Jesus!" is our prayer, our wish, our deepest hope.

[Put a sign on the floor over towards the choir side]

As you drove along Pembroke or Evergreen you undoubtedly noticed the signs announcing our parish Advent theme:

"Come with Joyful Hope!"

Those words are not addressed to Jesus.

No they are addressed to us!

They are inviting us to get ready for when Jesus comes to us.

They, too, are an invitation, an invitation to come here in anticipation.

Here's a sign with that invitation: Come with Joyful Hope!

[Place this sign on the other side of the altar]

An invitation to Jesus.

An invitation to us.

As we get closer and closer to Christmas we hope these two invitations to get closer and closer ... and closer ... and closer.

[bring to two signs closer to each other - in front of the altar]

[then bring them right next to each other]

Hum, what do we now have here?

We have an intersection, a meeting, a convergence, an encounter!

We have a marvelous event!!!!

We have the Almighty, we have God, we have Jesus coming to us ... and we have us coming to Jesus!

We have Jesus humbling himself, coming as a human being, so that we can be comfortable in approaching him with our conversation, with our needs, our praise, our joyful hope.

While this season invites us to meet with the Lord, we can have such a meeting with the Lord at any time and at all times.

Sometimes we approach the Lord and sometimes - actually continuously - the Lord is approaching us.

Really? Yes, really ... all the time ... in all places.

Sometimes the approach of the Lord occurs through some stimulus.

I can think of various times I have heard about people meeting with the Lord in so many different environments.

On the rose-colored (pink) handout you received when you entered church are four such lists.

1. Some people have met the Lord: In Nature
2. Some people have met the Lord: In the Sacred
3. Some people have met the Lord: In Life Experiences
4. Some people have met the Lord: In the Unconscious

We are all different so we do not have ALL the same experiences.

How about you?

As you look at the list, can you recall one of those close experiences or conversations you had with the Lord, one that you particularly treasure?

What was the occasion - the situation - stimulus - the environment?

This holiday season is a marvelous time for us to take some time to look back at "intersections with the Lord", our close moments with the Lord.

Perhaps some time taken in remembering, refreshing and meditating can revive those close moments here and now.

Let us try that right now.

Let us have a short period of absolute quiet while we can check those lists and start recalling a favorite time when the Lord has touched us, moved us, affected us, lifted us, brought us joy, brought us comfort.

How about I cut two minutes off this homily so we can have that brief chance to reflect and meditate?

Does anyone need one of those pink lists that I mentioned?

Will the ushers please give those people a list?

OK! The next two minutes are for you and the Lord!

Blessings on you as you recall your meetings with the Lord!

[stay up in the front pew to time out the two minutes]

I am sorry to call a halt to those recollections of time with the Lord.

When you are back home can you make some time to take up where you left off?

May that time be a blessing to each of us!

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming to us 2000 years ago.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming into our very lives.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for come to us again at Christmas.

## Some Places Where People Have Met the Lord

*The Unconscious*

- 1 Dreams
- 2 Ideas from the Holy Spirit (inspiration)
- 3 Ah Ha! Moments
- 4 It came in a flash!
- 5 etc.
- 6 etc.
- 7 etc.
- 8 etc.
- 9 etc.
- 10 etc.
- 11 etc.
- 12 etc.

## Some Places Where People Have Met the Lord

*In the Sacred*

- 1 Scripture
- 2 Prayer
- 3 Mass
- 4 Receiving Holy Communion
- 5 Retreat/Day of Prayer
- 6 Meditation
- 7 Rosary
- 8 Eucharistic Adoration
- 9 Homily
- 10 Music - hearing or singing
- 11 etc.
- 12 etc.

## Some Places Where People Have Met the Lord

*In Nature*

- 1 Sunrise/sunset
- 2 A flower
- 3 The sky
- 4 Stars at night
- 5 Autumn colors
- 6 A mountain top
- 7 etc.
- 8 etc.
- 9 etc.
- 10 etc.
- 11 etc.
- 12 etc.

## Some Places Where People Have Met the Lord

*In Life Events*

- 1 Birth of a child
- 2 Death of a loved one
- 3 Marriage
- 4 A hug in church
- 5 Illness
- 6 Tragedy
- 7 Witness story of another
- 8 etc.
- 9 etc.
- 10 etc.
- 11 etc.
- 12 etc.