

Saturday, December 16

God's Gift of "Now"

The Lord ... goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)

I've been learning about a different way of living, with less planning ahead, and more readiness to seize the moment.

Like this summer when I asked a friend from my community, "Do you want to go camping next weekend?" Instead of replying 'yes' or 'no', she said, "Long time away. I don't know what will be happening then." This type of scene has played out many times and I'm starting to realize there are factors she knows she can't control. Her son might return from the moose hunt with meat she will help with. Health problems might flare up, money or weather issues could affect timing, or crisis situations could arise within the family or community.

The word 'now' is a good one to reflect on. Each day is a gift God places in our hands and we honour the gift by being fully alive to every moment. The past is history, the future is fantasy. The present moment is the only one we have to affect us. And in our Advent theme, we hear that God is here NOW. God meets us in every present situation, whether they are feel-good moments or dark times.

In our world and lives, we still see and feel pain. Hatred, fear, brokenness, neglect, and violence are dark clouds shutting out the light for many people. We still wait in darkness, with glimmers of hope while cries for justice pierce our hearts. We are not alone. God, through Jesus, comes to us and will not forsake us.

We give thanks for the gift of each person, created in God's image. May we feel God with us. We pray for wisdom and strength to follow the way of our blessed Saviour, as we live each day in his name. Amen.

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