

Memorize & Ponder

Nov 27, 2016 – Advent 1

Memorize & Ponder Text – Matthew 24:44
(Full Readings – Ps 122 & Matt 24:36-44)
Week of Nov 20-27, 2016

Stay Awake

Matt 24:44(NRSV)

*Therefore you must also be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.*

*Throughout the Christian year of 2016-17, from Advent to Advent, we will be focusing on the theme of 'Flourishing in the Fulfillment of God's Promises.' Our Scripture readings and Memorize & Ponder texts will be mostly from the gospel of Matthew. His focus in telling the stories of Jesus is on the fulfillment of God's promises to creation recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures. This is a Jewish Jesus, God's promised Messiah. But the ways God's promises were fulfilled in Jesus scandalized most people of his day (and perhaps of ours?) with their apparent foolishness. We invite you to **listen** for what the Spirit is saying in the text, then **question** how those insights might change the ways you see things and act in the world. Ponder the meaning of these texts for your life and work in the world. Contribute to our conversations in worship. Raise questions with your family and friends about how their lives might flourish in a relationship with Jesus Christ as their loving friend,*

Ponderings for the Friends of Jesus

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us provoke one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together ... (Hebrews 10:23-25a)

A Word for the Friends of Jesus to Ponder = Ready

The virtue of patience
is in short supply these days.
Our culture has formed us
to expect things instantaneously.
Instant gratification –
that's the promise.
You will get what you want faster and easier.

Matthew's gospel,
which we will be reading through together
during this coming year,
is all about Jesus as the fulfillment
of God's promises to his beloved creation.

But those promises don't get fulfilled
in the ways most people longed for then or now.
God's ways are not our ways
and God's timing is not our timing.

So we wait.
But it is an active waiting,
done in friendship with God in Jesus Christ,
always ready to learn by doing the things
Christ has already enabled us to do
as the blessings we were created to be.

Gratitude for Grace Noticed this Week

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