



DAILY FAITH PRACTICES

Second Sunday of Advent (B) – 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Focus: *Wait with Patience*

word of life

“But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.” 2 Peter 3:8 (NRSV)

Read 2 Peter 3:8-15a

It has been over 2000 years since Jesus was born under a bright star in Bethlehem. Some might reason if a day with the Lord is like a thousand years, then only two days (of God’s time) have passed since Mary gave birth. Attempts to explain God’s use of time are simply *attempts* to gain understanding of the ways God operates.

We are encouraged to imagine one day with the Lord as like a thousand years. Try to imagine that one day.

1. *What do you think one day with the Lord would be like?*
2. *How would you describe God’s time?*
3. *How do you respond when people ask you when Christ will return again?*

“The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9 NRSV) God created us and gave us breath. God does not want us to perish, but desires life for us. That means God is patient with us as we discover God’s love and life-giving promises.

4. *How does it feel to know the Lord is patient with you?*
5. *God wants no one to perish. What implications does that have for the way the church functions?*

There is so much we simply do not know about God and God’s use of time. We do not know how or when time ends – that is particularly true for each of us and our life span. Like a thief who comes unexpectedly, the end may come without warning. We live finite lives on this earth.

The Advent message rings out: Get ready. Be prepared. Watch. Wait.

This passage captures the urgency of Advent, calling believers to live a godly and holy life. Usually that includes changing our ways and returning to Christ. The house to be cleaned in December is our own spiritual house. We ground our preparations in prayer, hoping the fruits of a faithful life will overflow with acts of compassion and kindness.

If we allow the message of Advent to take root, we realize God can use these weeks of preparation to restore order to our lives. We actively prepare for a guest to come into our hearts and lives, the One who offers to be with us forever.

6. *Do you believe the Lord is returning any time soon? Why or why not?*
7. *What difference will it make when the Lord returns?*
8. *Summarize this passage.*

word *among us*

As the years passed, the problem increased rather than disappeared. Nicki's husband hated to wait. She assumed he would become more patient as he got older. Not so. Instead, his tantrums had become woefully predictable. Whenever Nicki and her husband found themselves in a situation when they needed to wait, all started fine. Shortly, Nicki would see her husband's leg begin to twitch, followed by a full-body restlessness. Once her husband stood up to pace, Nicki knew his patience was gone. It was time to leave the situation.

1. *How do you cope with waiting?*
2. *What makes waiting so challenging?*

Many times we get caught in a frenzy waiting for God to act in our lives and world. We sometimes forget God waits for us as well. "The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9 NRSV) Take a moment to reflect on God's patience.

3. *What feelings are stirred in you when you hear of God's patience with you?*
4. *How do you test God's patience?*
5. *What is God waiting for you to do?*

faith practice in daily life

Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.

In baptism, we become connected to Christ and become part of the body of Christ. There are times we stay within the safe walls of the church for ministry opportunities. Other times, we are boldly sent into the world to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.

Unfortunately, proclaiming good news in our daily lives does not come with a manual. Our daily life takes us to stores, meetings, gatherings, and functions. So how do we proclaim the good news in those settings? Fortunately, the Holy Spirit serves as a guide. And so we wait and listen. Who needs an encouraging smile or word? Who needs a word of hope?

Times of waiting are transformed into moments of prayer and discernment. We wait upon God to fill us with wisdom, love, and mercy.

6. *Instead of being impatient at times of waiting, what is another option?*
7. *How do you choose to occupy your time on earth while you wait for Christ to return?*

Prayer

Christ, interrupt our life and make us still. Transform times of waiting to moments of discernment of your will. Help us to wait with patience for your return. Amen

last word

During times of waiting,
thank God for a time of prayer.
Then, begin to pray.