

## Rolling Back the Darkness

- It's Advent -
  - Advent doesn't begin with a manger and shepherds and a silent night,
  - But with the prophecy that God will make a powerful intervention in human history.
  - Today's Gospel *Luke*. It is one of the scariest passages in the Gospels.  
"People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming."  
The Son of Man will come *on a cloud with power and great glory.*"
  - God's gonna step in and re-create His world.
    - He will put an end to the exploitation of the poor and powerless.
    - He will punish those who have turned things into their gods.
    - He will make his presence known to those hiding themselves from his wrath.

**Tough stuff. Not the stuff of Christmas carols.**
- Advent speaks about (1) preparation and (2) transformation.
  - **Preparation** for the 3 comings of Christ: In Bethlehem, At the end of time, In our hearts
  - **Transformation**, that His coming will cause.
- Advent is the season of hope – because with Jesus' coming, the darkness will end.
  - Hatred, racism, abuse, broken relationships, war, indifference to human suffering, these are part of the darkness of the world.
  - The transformation of the world that Jesus brings casts out darkness.
  - LIGHT ALWAYS DEFEATS DARKNESS
- Transforming the world from hatred to love is the continual work of the Christian.
  - **We** must fight against the darkness - *Where is this darkness in our lives?*
    - How can I - how can you - bring light into the darkness?
    - Could be something as simple as saying 'I'm Sorry'
      - Sometimes the most simple gesture can heal the darkness.
- The story of the rabbi - a wise guy "OK Answer-man, what's the meaning of life?" snicker
  - Auschwitz tattoo
  - Takes out the small mirror
  - Reflect light into the darkness
    - We are keepers of the light – bring it! *We've had our share of darkness*
    - It's time for us to stop focusing on the darkness and start focusing on light.
    - It's time for Christians to stop playing defense. It's time for us to play offense.
    - In Advent we prepare for the coming of the Lord – the source of light.
    - We're keepers of the light – bring it!
- If we are going to stand before our Savior on the last day, we must fight against the darkness.
- We cannot allow pride, or fear, or prejudices to destroy our opportunity to bring the light to those in darkness.

God's love flows through us.  
This is the work of the Christian.  
This is how we prepare the way for the Lord.