

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"
 - When Jesus returns, look out
 - Get ready – Watch – Prepare → Jesus is coming
 - Advent is all about preparation .
 - **(AT AUTECH)** *We can see it here in Emily – all year PREPARING for Easter*
 - **We prepare for coming of Christ**
 - There are actually 3 comings of Christ:
 - 1st. In Bethlehem, 2nd coming - At the end of time, But before that - In our hearts
 - We call Advent a season of hope – because with Jesus' coming, the darkness will end.
 - The transformation of the world that Jesus brings casts out darkness.
 - LIGHT ALWAYS DEFEATS DARKNESS
 - N.B. – Jesus came at Bethlehem & the light of Christ entered the world
 - That light has been passed on to us – WE ARE KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT
 - Transforming the world from hatred to love is the continual work of the Christian. – US
 - **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.
 - I've told the story of the rabbi who was asked what was the meaning of life by atheist
 - 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're going to stand before God on the last day, we must fight against the darkness this day
- We cannot allow pride, or fear, or prejudices to destroy our opportunity to bring the light to those in darkness.

God's love flows from Jesus, through us, to all we meet.

This is the work of the Christian.

This is how we prepare the way for the Lord

This is how we live ADVENT FAITH in a YEAR OF FAITH.