

December 6, 2020 | 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

[IS 40:1-5, 9-11](#)

[PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-1](#)

[2 PT 3:8-14](#)

[MK 1:1-8](#)

By Bro. Steve Herro, O.Praem.

*Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years
and a thousand years like one day.
The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard delay,
but he is patient with you,
not wishing that any should perish
but that all should come to repentance.
2 Peter 3: 8-10*

We are reminded in today's Second Reading that Advent is loaded with references to waiting, patience, and preparation. We know that God does not function in the same timeframe and by the same clock that we do.

Perhaps Advent 2020 has provided even more reasons to be impatient than any previous Advents! We wait (impatiently?) for the control of the Coronavirus, the beginning of a new U.S. presidency that might be more different than its predecessor than any Presidential transition in our history, and the world's addressing of the existential threat of climate change.

But we cannot be passive observers or nervous hibernators until "they" figure things out. Not everyone can work for a COVID vaccine in a Pfizer lab, cast a vote in the Electoral College or serve on the Biden-Harris transition team, or join a carbon sequestration research team. We have a role and responsibility during these times of transition for a safer, just, and peaceful world.

*People of the whole Judean countryside
and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem
were going out to him
and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River
as they acknowledged their sins.
Mark 1:5*

We are reminded in today's Gospel that the general population acknowledged its sins and its members were baptized by John the Baptist. Folks were not passive observers or nervous hibernators; they welcomed personal conversion.

How can we proactively hasten (and therefore contribute to the health, safety, and justice of our world community) in the context of the control of COVID, a new Presidential team, and the lowering of carbon emission rates? While admitting that God is in charge by praying for ourselves and others, we can also proactively prepare for a safer, healthier, and more just planet by wearing a mask, socially distancing ourselves, limiting visiting outside of our homes, treating our political opposites with greater kindness, and practicing a more sustainable lifestyle based on what we eat, how we transport ourselves, and how we keep ourselves warm and cool.

Steve is a member of [St. Norbert Abbey, De Pere \(Wisc.\)](#). In addition to his keen interest in justice and peace and our Catholic social tradition and service as an archivist and executive assistant, he participates in the Spiritual Direction Preparation Program of the Franciscan Spirituality Center (La Crosse, Wisc.).