

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday December 9, 2024 - Romans 12: 12

12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Read Romans 12 for meditation and inspiration.



ADVENT TWO PREPARATION/PROPHECY

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand" (Matthew 3:2).

The British-American poet W.H. Auden wrote an extended musical work based on the story of the Three Wise Men. In it, each man tells why he is following the star. The first says, "To discover how to be truthful now is why I follow the star." The second one says, "To discover how to live now is why I follow the star." The third says, "To discover how to be loving now is why I follow the star." The moving and beautiful climax occurs when the three strong voices sing together, "To discover how to be human now is the reason we follow the star." We are here today to celebrate this same message of truth, life, and love. That is what the Advent and the Christmas story are all about: to discover how to be human!

The Advent Message directs us to turn off TikTok, Twitter, and TV distractions. It calls us to program some serious, quiet time to shift our focus to what is most important in life. It moves us to discover our true feelings about life, who we are, and where we're going in a joyous spirit of a life of love.

"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Of course, that is more easily said than done. We compare the ideal with reality. We see action packed movies, loud music with a heavy beat, compelling "Breaking News." BUT God's Kingdom coming to earth as it is in heaven finds its beginning in a Bethlehem stable with a baby crying in the night. It is here where heaven and earth meet that should draw your attention, your heart, your very life. For it is here in this humble beginning that Salvation has come to you!

In the wonder of a Bethlehem stable,