

Greeting

We gather today on the cusp of a new year. Next Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, begins a new church year. This Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday after Pentecost, concludes the present church year.

We have told the story ...

... the promise of Immanuel, the one who will be God with us, and its fulfillment in the birth of Jesus

... the life and witness of Jesus, sharing our common lot, walking among us teaching and healing and forgiving, shining God's light into the dark corners of our world and our souls

... the rebellion of darkness, the execution of the son of God, but the triumphant victory of God who raised Jesus Christ from death, which is the promise to raise us too to new life

... the gift of the Spirit, the Spirit God, the Spirit of Jesus, to be among us, granting us wisdom and courage, empowering to be makers of God's kingdom, makers of peace, makers of shalom in this world.

We have told the story and next week, we start all over again! We will retell the story. We will rehearse the story, because that is what we are doing. We are rehearsing, not merely repeating: rehearsing, taking our roles, practicing our parts, practicing until the story lives in us, until the story lives through us, practicing, practicing, practicing, rehearsing, rehearsing, rehearsing until ...
Until the show goes on! Until God's kingdom comes!

And when will that be? The only answer Scripture and Spirit give is ... soon! Soon. So we must stay ready, alert, engaged, expectant, and well-rehearsed!

The Rev. Timothy Ensworth