Have you ever looked at the clear night sky and thought, “Wow, this is so beautiful?” I'm always overcome with the mystery and beauty of the universe. I’m also overwhelmed by the thought that there’s so much out there and how little we know about the universe.

The days leading up to Christmas are a time of expectation, much like waiting for a star's light to reach us. It’s a promise coming, as surely and steadily as light traveling from a distant star. It’s the promise of a return—a restoration of all things to their actual being, a goodness conceived from the beginning of time, a realized hope we’ve longed for.

For the “days are coming,” say the prophets of old. “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will fulfill the good promise.” (Jeremiah 33:14). It’s the promise of *truth*, *compassion*, *restoration*, and *justice*.

These four promises are not just simple words. They are our compass, pulling us toward a future we can only glimpse. But it’s a future that will turn everything upside down. Everything wrong will be made right, everything bad will be made good, and everything empty and devoid of love will be filled.

The season of Advent marks the beginning of our Christian calendar. One of my favorite things about this time of preparation for Christmas is the feeling of anticipation. We don’t glide into Christmas with triumph and a ‘rah-rah’ certainty that all is safe and secure. No, we begin by waiting—waiting for the test results, waiting for the phone to ring, waiting for prayers to be answered or community to be found. We are all so very familiar with waiting.

But, this Advent, we don’t and won’t wait in vain. Our waiting is not a sign of despair but a beacon of hope. Christmas brings us right to the moment of the birth of the baby Jesus—our joy realized, first in a baby

born and laid down in a hay stall in a remote village. A Savior who will make all things right.

May we squint at the light afar this Advent and say, “Come, Lord Jesus! We’re tired of waiting, but we wait with hope and anticipation.”

May you all have a wonderful Christmas this year as we wait for our Savior to return in all his glory.

Amen