

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT.



What I say to you, I say to all: “Watch!”

THE GOSPEL. Mark 13:33-37

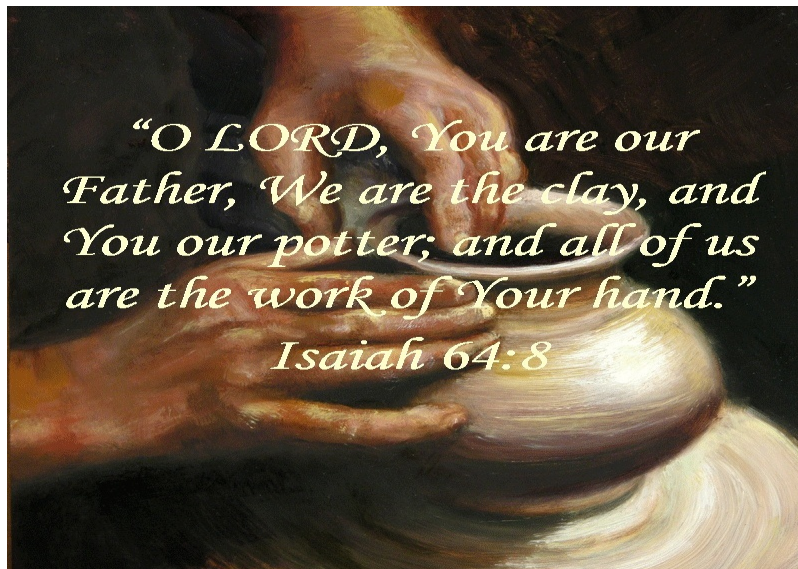
Rough
mountains,
steep pathways,
rugged trails with ruts,
or sometimes,
cool trails,
running
streams.

Whether
rough roads or sunny streets
let us never stop watching
for you, O
Lord.

Come to us as we walk with one another
on the pathway of time.

We look for you in all things,
all creation, every event,
every love, every
one we meet,
along
the
way.

THE FIRST READING. Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1, 3b-8



Lord,
master potter,
we are clay, modest
in your skilled
hands.

Shape us as you will. Polish us.
Smooth our rough ways.
Mend us: we are
broken.

Please make us
new.

THE SECOND READING. 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

I give thanks to my God always on your account.

Christ,
thank you
for the grace you give
to all of us on earth,
to our dear friends,
our loved ones,
in this time of
need. And
always.

Enrich us in every way,
in all burdens and all knowledge.
Do not let us wander
or sleep.

Anne Osdieck

Reflection:

Advent is a time to recognize that we are sinful, but Advent is also a time of “longing for Christ our Saviour,” a time in which we “wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus.” We look forward to the celebration of Christmas, the commemoration of Jesus’ birth, but we also look forward to the “promise and hope” of heaven, which we want God to “teach us to love.”

The longing for Christ causes us to want things to change for the better. We want God to find us “blameless on the day of Our Lord Jesus Christ.” With Isaiah’s words in mind: “Would that you might meet us doing right, we ask God to increase our strength of will for doing good.”

Advent can be an expression of our faith in the possibility of a better world. We can ‘do right’ in our inter-relations, in our family obligations, and personal relationships. We can ‘do good’ to the poor, the elderly, the homeless, and to all our brothers and sisters at home and abroad. We can become beacons of social justice, examples of faith and love, peacemakers.

The message of Advent is to “be constantly on the watch!” We base this constant watch on hope of God’s “promise of eternal life.” The promise of Christmas is a joyful anticipation that “The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.” *Gerald Darring*