

Virginia Council of Churches  
Week One – Advent Reflection

**“Our Spirit Waits”**

**Text: Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37**

Both the Old and New Testaments Advent Week 1 scriptures paint a picture of waiting, in hope, for the coming of an awesome and frightening God.

*“Oh, that you would burst from the heavens and come down! How the mountains would quake in your presence! As fire causes wood to burn and water to boil, your coming would make the nations tremble. Then your enemies would learn the reason for your fame!”* Isaiah 64:1-2 NLT.

Isaiah 64:1-9 Opens with Israel wishing that God would “tear open the heavens and come down,” making God’s presence known. Israel is longing for the God of its past to show up and show out, the God who did “awesome deeds” that Israel did not expect. But Israel recognizes that it has become unworthy of the God it desires. Israel feels that God has rightfully hidden God’s presence from them, even handed them over to their own iniquity. But Israel has hope that its Father God, the Potter, will once again show up and work the clay that is Israel in His hands. Israel has hope that God will remember that they are God’s people and God is an awesome God.

What a way to begin a new liturgical calendar year of expectation! Our focus should be on the hope of God showing up again in the lives of God’s people at the start of a new liturgical year while putting behind us the sufferings and struggles of God’s people through their own iniquity. We know that when God shows up situations change. When God shows up hope is renewed, life is energized and our faith is strengthened because God is with us!

*“At that time, after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.”* Mark 13:24-25NLT

Mark 13:24-37 is an apocalyptic foretelling of the coming of God. The picture painted is after suffering has occurred. The sun will be dark, and the moon won’t give light either. Even the stars will fall from heaven. But it is in the midst of these dark times that “the Son of Man will come in the clouds with great power and glory.” This pericope in Mark provides hope that is associated with the second coming of Christ, while it warns that we must “stay alert” and awake. Let us begin this new season of Advent with a Spirit of Expectation, alertness and awareness!!!

Lord helps us to be alert and ready when you show up. Shape and mold us as clay in your hands and renew our strength for the work you have given us to do until you come. Amen.



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