

Today's Advent Devotional Is Offered by Terri A. Neal

A Baby Changes Everything

I am so grateful that this year's Advent theme is "Repeat the Sounding Joy." Every Christmas, I sing the hymn, "Joy to the World" but, until now, I had not studied or given a great deal of thought to the lyrics of the hymn.

When I remember that each year Reverend Dwayne and Reverend Cathy address the grief and sadness that some folks experience during the holiday season, the lyrics from "Joy to the World" that resonate with me are:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let every heart prepare Christ room



I am reminded that there have been times in my personal life when grief, sadness, bitterness, resentment, anger and /or fear have made it impossible for me to access *my Joy* and *there was little or no room in my hardened heart for Jesus*.

The good news is that *Jesus never, ever leaves me!!!!* Not even when I am bereaved, angry, resentful or ungrateful.

I must be intentional about working through painful experiences and feelings by discussing them fully and honestly with someone that I trust. And, in the midst of it all, Jesus is right there with me. “

And, the Wonders of God's love”.

“A baby changes everything!” Jesus is my savior and his blessings flow. It is an honor and a privilege to repeat the sounding joy every single day.....