

Today's Advent Devotional is provided by
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Ready or Not

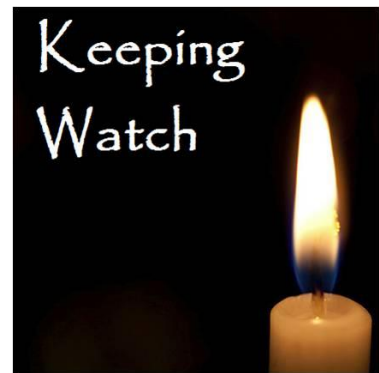
I was glad when they said to me,
Let us go into the house of God.

What other temple gives you so much joy?
Is it your home, or your parental home,
or maybe temples of shopping-Macy's,
Walmart, Target-
where do you go for inspiration, nurture, joy and hope?
Now, beginning the annual march toward Christmas,
are we ready to enter the stable,
familiar territory simultaneously
strange and comforting,
where few have actually ventured
outside the obligatory pageant
but where we see proof of God showing up
ready or not.

Noah knew about this, Pharaoh's daughter too,
Sarah and Paul, fishermen with nets to put down,
later so full they cannot cope.
Are we ever ready for God, I mean truly ready, eager,
like a child waiting on emotional tiptoe for her natal day
and the pile of gifts to tear open, while gorging on cake and ice cream,
not wanting it ever to end,
ready or not?

The proverbial thief in the night comes
with good news, our life is turned upside down,
once settled in the north now we go south,
or are drawn inexorably by a star in the east no one else can see-
or is it they don't want to see, maybe us, too,
afraid to take a chance on God, we look away,
hoping God comes at more convenient times?

Ready or not,
our calendar measures mere time while God's counts out yearning,
divine desire for us to become all intended at conception-
imagine if we followed God's agenda,
how much richer our individual lives,
and the life of the world, would be!
We could stop predicting and start listening,



going with the flow of holy energy.

I was glad when they said to me,
Let us go into the house of the God.

Ready or not.

(Reflecting on (Psalm 122, Matthew 24:36-44))