

Today's Advent Devotional is provided by Rev. Dr. Robin Hawley Gorsline

Company Is Coming!

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.

- Romans 13:11-14

I am not a good housekeeper-maybe more honest to say I am a lousy housekeeper. My desk is always a mess, books piled on the floor, filing way behind, dusting undone, and bathrooms are pretty much always in need of cleaning.

Jonathan is reasonably tolerant of my shortcomings-he is my opposite in terms of neatness.. But it doesn't work so well when company is expected. The idea of preparing a room, or rooms. causes me to panic, and then eventually I get down to business. Of course, I vow to never let it happen again! Sadly, nothing has really changed since I was a kid and my mother had to nag me to tidy things up in my room, and pick up my stuff in the rest of the house.



So, this idea of preparing room for the arrival of Jesus sounds good, but it can throw me off.

I am not sure panic is the best response, but I suppose it can help. Of course, in this situation it is not about physical rooms but opening our hearts, cleaning out the junk and letting the promise of new life, renewed life, enter in our hearts and minds, and find expression in our speech and actions. Prepare room inside us so the new babe can once again enter in.

At 73, you'd think I would have this all worked out-after all, I have experienced six dozen Advents! But each year is new even as each year is an echo of those already lived. We are repeating the sounding joy even if the precise notes are not identical each year.

So I am thinking that this year I am going to make sure I pause each day, several times each day, to listen to my heart, to ask God what They want for me this day, to pray that this is the richest, most robust and gentle, most rewarding and challenging, season of preparation ever.