

Today's Advent Devotional is provided by Jacqueline Laughlin

Making All Things New....

In anticipation of the birth of the Christ. I am struck with how quickly this year has gone by. Members of our congregation have been writing devotions for Lent and Advent for some time now and I can see the gentle patterns of waiting patiently for something that we know will occur in due time in due season.

Frank first invited me to share the altar as an invitation to the open table. Then he offered me the opportunity to write and share my experiences of the Divine. My oh my, have I learned the power and wisdom that come with knowing God's love for me and what it truly feels like to be welcomed and adored. What does worship and devotion look like when you try to find the words of an intensely personal journey?

What does "becoming" a spiritual force in the community look like? If writing is both my ministry and my spiritual practice, how

do I become more comfortable in being a source of hope and encouragement? How do I wake each morning seeking God in new mercies, seeking courage to find peace and joy in my own way, no matter what it looks like or seems like at any given moment. . . ?



This is not my first Christmas nor do I think it will be my last, but I have grown and changed and can now see birth as both a beginning, and an ending as the life once we have once known has ended. There are many magical gifts for me under the tree.

God is love! Love makes all things new! Remember that God has begun a new work in you! Whether we celebrate the Resurrection or the Birth... we come to know ourselves in new ways.

We share in the Body, we rejoice in the Spirit, we grow in letting go what was known as we make room for learning more about the light and love that is all around us ever present! Our glorious gift of freedom that was there all the time. We can be confident that the work is not yet complete.

Stay tuned. Miracles abound in every season!