

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020**  
**“HAVE A LITTLE FAITH PART 4”**  
**By Rev. Joanna Dietz**

*But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.*

*Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.*

*Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. ~2 Peter 3:8-15a (NRSV)*

When I was a little girl, our town had a number of parades for various holidays. I lived for those parades! Our house was right on the route and I also couldn't wait until I was old enough to march in the parades. My first time was after I learned how to ride my bicycle and we decorated it with streamers flying behind me as I rode.

The early Christians believed that Jesus would come back in their lifetime and deliver them from the Roman Empire, persecution, and all the other negative parts that come from living on earth. But that's not what happened. Members of their community and families died and there still did not seem to be any sign of the coming Messiah.

Peter was written to remind the people that God's timing is not our timing. Not only this, but God wanted as many people to be saved as possible, so perhaps this drawn out wait was actually God's way of giving as many people as possible the opportunity to repent and believe the Good News of Jesus Christ.

And today, we still wait. The Bible is clear that we are not to know the timing of the coming of the Reign of God. But as we wait, we are to make our hearts right with the Lord. Waiting is never easy. Waiting for something that may or may not come in our lifetime is almost more than we can comprehend. And still, we are called – we are invited – to wait. We wait for justice for the oppressed. We wait for equality for Black people, for disabled people, for the LGBT community. We wait for the circle to draw wide enough to encompass people of all cultures and races. We wait for what seems impossible. And while we wait, we make sure we have got ourselves right with God.

Prayer: Redeeming Lord, we wait for you to come to your Kingdom here on earth to create equity, justice, compassion and steadfast love. Open us to see the community as you long to see community. Amen.

*Thought for the Day: Waiting is hard. How do you keep your spirit right with God while you wait?*