

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020

“SO THIS IS LOVE PART 2”

By Rev. Joanna Dietz

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. ~Titus 2:11-14 (NRSV)*

Waiting is hard – especially on this week when we are so excited about Christmas! Have you ever gone to the airport and watched the people reunited with loved ones who have been away for a long time? There’s an anxious energy at those doors to the airport that is escalated every time a new batch of people comes through the doors. The anticipation leads to great joy the moment a loved one is seen and jubilantly welcomed back home.

We heard yesterday about the waiting in the Book of Isaiah for a Savior who would bring peace. Today in Titus, we hear about a small community in Crete that has seen the Savior come once and is waiting for the Savior’s return. It seems that the coming was not the end of the story of salvation, but a message of hope along the way to full salvation.

In our communion liturgy we say: “Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.” We know the story. We know the wait. The author of Titus is calling on people to consider their actions during this wait. Don’t fall into the trap of living a lazy life. Instead live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly. This honors God. This shows our love and devotion to God even while we wait for the return of Christ. The remembrance of Christ’s birth is the story retold to wait. Salvation is coming. We will see Christ again. If Christ come to earth was God showing us God’s love and devotion to us, this is our turn to show our love and devotion to God through our actions while we wait.

Prayer: Holy God come in human form to show us love, we wait in love and devotion and great anticipation for you to come. Amen.

*Thought for the Day : Christ is coming. How are you living while you wait?*