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| **SERMON NOTES Sunday 29th November** |
| **SunnySide** |

**Bible passages Isaiah 64:1-9 & 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

**Introduction**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. A season in which the church goes into a time of waiting. Waiting for the coming of Christ in his birth, and hope to when he returns. The Bible talks a lot about waiting upon the Lord. What does it mean?

**What does the Bible teach us about waiting upon the LORD?**

* When we wait upon the Lord our strength is renewed (Isaiah 40:30-31). It doesn’t take from us it gives to us.
* Hebrew for wait is *qavah*, it means, “to bind together.”
* It’s about binding together with God. We are getting our strength renewed by being very close to the Lord.
* The Greek wordfor wait in NT is *perimenō* which means, “to abide, to continue to be present, to endure”. (Read John 15:5) To bind with Him is to be present with Him.

**Isaiah 64**

* Isaiah 64 is in post exile times. They are allowed to return home, after being away. Instead of a prayer of praise this passage is a prayer of lament. The place they once called home looks very different. Even though everything else around them had changed their God hadn’t. He was still their Father who acted on behalf of those who waited for him.

**1 Corinthians 1**

* Paul’s first words to the church at Corinth are about waiting.
* He reminds them that the day of Jesus is coming, and as they eagerly waited, God will strengthen them to the end for he is a faithful God.

**Conclusion**

There is something precious about waiting and about being present in the waiting, not to fast forward or skip this season.So, this Advent as we go through this period of waiting, wearereminded that we aren’t waiting hopelessly for the coming of Christ. We wait with HOPE. We aren’t in it alone, our faithful God is with us, he is within us. All we need to is to draw close.

**Some questions for discussion**

1. Can you think of any other examples in the Bible of people waiting upon God? What can we learn from these examples?
2. What have we had to wait for recently? What does this waiting process teach us about ourselves and about who God is?
3. Read Isaiah 64:1-9. What strikes you?
4. Reading the prayer in Isaiah, do we find it easy to draw close to God when things are difficult and out of our control?
5. Things look different due to COVID but God hasn’t changed. What truths can we name about our unchanging God?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 1:3-9. What strikes you?
7. What are we hoping for during this season of Advent?
8. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages?

Why not spend some time just thanking God for his faithfulness and all that he give us. Why not pray and ask God for him to speak to us in this season of waiting, renewing us with his hope.

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