

Advent 4

We are concluding the Jubilee Year of Hope and of Healing in the Catholic Church, which resonates greatly with our own circumstances and the season of Advent, the great season of Hope that we find ourselves in. In order to open ourselves to this hope, we are asked to confront the difficult and painful realities that we face, both on a personal level as well as collectively as a community, but we do so confidently, knowing that the coming of the Messiah will bring light into our darkness and will bring healing to the wounds that we have experienced. It is said that “Jesus is the reason for the season,” and it is so true. Though you and I may not have it together, and though others may not have it all together, and though our Church may not have it all together, and as our community, nation, and world, may not have it all together – Jesus does! This is the Good News! That is why it is important, even as we look at all of our troubles, that we do not get stuck there, that we remember the many blessings we have and the good things that we can look forward to because of Jesus. He is the reason for our hope.

We all need Jesus, and through faith we indeed have access to Jesus in our Church. Therefore, it is equally important that just as we are hopeful people, that we be hospitable people who share that hope with others. There will be many people looking for that hope with us this upcoming Christmas Season and throughout the years. Some people will be joining us because their Church community is closing, and they are looking for a new home. Some are coming back still to their traditions and roots after having been away for a time. Some are hurting and want the healing that Jesus brings. All of us have our different reasons for being here, but all of them find their answer in Jesus. Christmas is time for welcoming the Christ Child, *de facto* making each of us to be innkeepers. Don’t be the innkeeper that pushes people away from Jesus, claiming no room in the spaces of our hearts and lives and communities. Rather, be the innkeeper that finds a way, that makes a space for something miraculous to happen. Share your seats, share your names, share your stories, share your traditions, share your gifts, share your blessings with those who are less fortunate, share your Church community and faith, share your hope in Jesus. Welcome others as you would welcome Christ.

Peace,

~Fr. Luke