

December 2019 – Minister’s Message

Happy Advent, my Sixth Street Christian Church family!

Have you known anyone who has a birthday in December? My best friend has her birthday on December 16. She used to tell me that “her” day almost always got overlooked in the bigger celebration of Christmas. Christmas is a BIG deal – there are family events and shopping to do and presents to wrap and church programs to attend and baking, baking, baking. Right? The problem is that we are so busy in preparing for and then celebrating Christmas that the time leading up to it – the Season of Advent – gets lost along the way.

Advent is a time of preparation. It is a journey we take every year between Thanksgiving and Christmas that prepares our souls for the actuality of God’s promise. There is a distance between the people of today’s world and the ones who live in God’s Realm as described by the prophets Isaiah and Micah: “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” The distance between the reality of our world and the one promised by God seems insurmountable. How does looking at this gap prepare us for seeing hope fulfilled?

I believe that when we recognize the gulf between what *is* and what *should be*, we can take the first step in changing death-dealing situations into life-giving ones. It is when we can recognize something isn’t lining up with God’s promise of blessing, peace, and plenty for all, that we can do something to make a difference – to move the world just a little bit closer to what God intends creation to be.

My challenge for you this Advent is to look for swords to beat with the hammer you’re holding. God’s work through you will allow new life to spring from barren land, and God’s promise will be revealed.

Many blessings upon you,

Michelle