

## *Reflections on Advent*

---

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance!

It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation. It is that hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates anew, the reign of an Anointed One, a Messiah, who will bring peace and justice and righteousness to the world.

A blessed season to all.

Chaplain Deborah Mejchar  
Fox Lake Correctional Institution

---

As we lit the first advent candle today in our church and I looked at the Chrismon Tree, the symbols passed down in time and the Advent Candles, I thought back to a segment I have recently read in Reverend Billy Graham's book *Nearing Home, Life, Faith and Finishing Well*. The segment "**Don't Live Without Hope**" was written as a response to a young man writing him a letter stating that once your are dead, that's it. The only life we will experience is the one we are living now. Reverend Graham's response was heart felt and stated that he was deeply saddened because the words mean you are living without hope. I thought of this as I sat in service today and imagined how empty and meaningless a life would be without hope.

The Advent season is the time for me to continue my assurance of Hope and of His return. The King Is Coming certainly is more than a song title, it gives us hope. We know he came as the Christmas story tells and He tells us in His word He will come again and no one knows the day or hour. What a wonderful opportunity Advent is for all to Hope and be prepared for His coming.

Peace to all during this Season of Advent and may we all continue to live in Hope of His coming.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Peavy  
Sr. Chaplain, IFOC