

Friday, December 16th, Day 20 – Kevin Harrington-Bain

Welcome – Hello, and welcome to Vespers for the Advent season. My name is Kevin Harrington-Bain, and today is the 20th day of Advent, Friday, December 16th.

Centering – As we begin our time of reflection and devotion, let's take a moment to center ourselves.

Make sure other distractions are quieted for the next few minutes.

If possible, bring your body to complete rest.

As you become aware of the stillness around you, focus on your breathing as we inhale and exhale slowly together.

Breathe in, exhale.

Breathe in, exhale.

Breathe in, exhale.

Responsive Prayer – As we continue in prayer together, speak the words of this responsive prayer.

LEADER – God of love

RESPONSE – May this season remind us of your steadfastness

LEADER – Christ of hope

RESPONSE – May this season remind us of your promises

LEADER – Spirit of peace

RESPONSE – May this season remind us of your comfort

LEADER – As it was from the beginning,

RESPONSE – So now, may the joy of this season burn in our hearts

TOGETHER – Amen

Lectio Divina – For the next few moments, let's dwell in God's Word.

Our reading today comes from 1 Peter, Chapter 1.

I will read the passage through 3 times - each time with a different way for you to experience the scripture.

1st Reading

Hear the Word of God

Read Passage

After 1st Reading Prompt

As we read through the 2nd time, take notice of what word or phrase stands out to you and hold onto it. If you would like to write your reflections down or tell someone else your findings, feel free to pause the video after this 2nd reading.

Read Passage

After 2nd Reading Prompt

If a word or phrase caught your attention, what, if anything, do you sense God saying to you about the JOY that Advent brings? Listen for that invitation during this final reading. If you would like to write your reflections down or tell someone else your findings, feel free to pause the video after this 3rd reading.

Read Passage

After 3rd Reading Prompt

As we conclude this time of reading together, let me offer this question as a challenge to be aware of as you go about your Advent season:

Question – Why do we love Jesus, even though we haven't seen him?

What JOY displayed in the Advent allows us to see without seeing?

Reading – 1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

5 who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,

7 so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

8 Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,

9 for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Benediction – Thank you for spending time with us today. As you continue this week, may the JOY of the Advent resound in every part of your life. If you will, speak these words with me as we conclude:

ALL – Lord of hosts,

Who breathed the words of creation and
spoke the Word of the Incarnation

Ignite our imaginations

Fill us with awe and wonder

Prepare the way for the Messiah, within and without

For unto us, a Child is born

Unto us, Emmanuel is given

Bring us Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace

As we receive, once again, Your greatest gift to the world

Amen, and amen

_____ – Join us every day of Advent for a time of reflection and devotion.
May God go with you through this season of JOY.
Blessings, dearly beloved.