

The Season of Advent

We celebrate Advent in Chronological time, but experience it in Kairos time. Kairos time is time organized around personal events, like emotional, psychological, or spiritual issues related to identity and meaning. Something may happen which impacts us and causes changes in the routines of our life; but that would not be Advent. However, if what happens results in our rethinking who we are as a person, or in our reexamining what we value, or reconsidering how we see and understand ourselves, or reassessing our purpose—that would be Advent. The word advent itself means: the coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important. The season of Advent highlights those times when a thought, or a perception, or an insight, or an experience arrives and initiates the kind of re-evaluation which is described above. Advent involves the dismantling of our familiar sense of self, urgent efforts to reassemble that self and the failure of that effort, our surrendering to that failure and our longing for what will come to life through it. Advent takes us somewhere—to a change in the way our minds work, something we celebrate in the Season of Christmas as the birth of Christ within us. [Jim Robie – 11/22/11]