

Message: *PUT ON FEARLESSNESS*

May God's Grace and peace be with you this day!

Here we are...the third week of Advent. That means there's only ONE...More... WEEK...and then it's "Christmas". Perhaps each of us is challenged by the timing and calendar of things to do, things to prepare, things to complete. That's why our focus this third week is particularly timely. Each Sunday of Advent we have a core word upon which to reflect and embody (put on). We started with Peace, then Justice. Next week we will consider Faithfulness. Today, we 'put on Fearlessness'.

Fear is a feeling of apprehension or anxiety caused by an approaching danger or stressor. Fear can also be a state of reverence or awe. There are a great many reasons people have fear or are afraid. Is it any wonder that there are at least 365 occurrences of the words/phrase, 'do not fear' or 'be not afraid'. So to put on fearlessness is no small task. Yet the prophet Isaiah tells us God is gonna do a mighty work, so we need to tell those who are fearful, 'Be strong, do not fear...Here is your God... who will come and save you.'

Even John, the fearless prophet, needed a reassuring word, that Jesus was the Promised One, the Messiah. Jesus response came straight out of Isaiah's vision of a peaceable kingdom and a dream of a new creation.

So I encourage each of us, as we do our best to 'put on fearlessness' in our daily walk, consider these questions: Where is God calling ME to not be afraid in MY life? Where is God calling ME to help someone in MY family to 'fear not'? Where within this faith community does God need ME to be fearless? What fear in MY neighborhood, my town, and my country causes others to be afraid? What needs to happen for this fear to cease? Where in God's world is fear turning to joy?

<prayers of people> Let it be so. AMEN.