

# ADVENT 1



## Prepare ye The Way of The Lord

By Jane Deren

### Call to Prayer

#### A Reading from Catholic Social Teaching

*The Church “seeks to promote the awareness of the good of each person and of all people as an unlimited resource for the development of every aspect of life in society.”*  
*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, #527*  
*A main concern of Church teaching must be “to clarify realities as the search for. . . a society with greater solidarity, the fight for justice and the building of peace.”*  
*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, #529*

#### Reflection

*We are called during the Advent season to be aware, to be awake, to recognize what is happening in the world--and to have hope.*  
*In a difficult time,*  
*we are challenged to see the good, to know the Kingdom of God is possible.*  
*To “prepare the way for the Lord” is to keep the faith so we can work for a better future for all human beings.*

*Advent is a time for discernment as we wait, a time for engaged waiting, a time to practice “the awareness of the good of each person and all people,” to “clarify realities” so we can recognize the Signs of God when they appear.*  
*Wait and watch with hope this Advent.*

## Reading from the Gospel of Mark, 13:33-37 for the First Sunday of Advent

Jesus said to his disciples:  
"Be watchful! Be alert!  
You do not know when the time will come.  
It is like a man traveling abroad.  
He leaves home and places his servants in charge,  
each with his own work,  
and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.  
Watch, therefore;  
you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming,  
whether in the evening, or at midnight,  
or at cockcrow, or in the morning.  
May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.  
What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'

### Reflection Questions

1. What is happening in our CB community, our province, our Church, our nation and the global community that demands we reflect from the perspective of Catholic Social Teaching, justice and peace--what are we called to be awake to?
2. Where do we look to see the signs of God in our province today?
3. How are we challenged to hope this Advent season?  
How can we practice this virtue?
4. What concrete actions can we engage in this Advent to embody the hope for justice and peace in our NA Province, and to welcome the Prince of Peace?

### *Period of Silence and Sharing Intentions*

### Prayer

We long for your coming,  
O Prince of Peace, Lord of Justice  
The advent of your Kingdom Is our prayer,  
As are our acts of hope,  
Our work of discernment;  
May we be awake to the suffering  
And inequities in our world.  
As the wise ones

Recognized the holy star,  
May we look and glimpse  
The signs of God  
Amid the dark night.