

Wednesday, December 5th, 2012

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Distinguished Alum '03

Scripture:

Psalms 147: 1-11

- 1 Praise the Lord!
 How good it is to sing praises to our God;
 for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
- 2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
 he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted,
 and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He determines the number of the stars;
 he gives to all of them their names.
- 5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
 his understanding is beyond measure.
- 6 The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
 he casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
 make melody to our God on the lyre.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds,
 prepares rain for the earth,
 makes grass grow on the hills.
- 9 He gives to the animals their food,
 and to the young ravens when they cry.
- 10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
 nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;
- 11 but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,
 in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Devotional:

We have the knowledge that Jesus Christ has come. Therefore we can “Praise the Lord” and “sing to the Lord with Thanksgiving”.

Christians can celebrate and we can invite others to join with us. We can live our lives with comfort and assurance. Even those that were against Jesus recognized that he thought the way of God (Luke 20:21). We, as followers can live in this world with hope, confidence, bravery,

certainty, and an assurance of triumph. God's love will eventually overcome the hostility of the world. It is that incongruity that still astounds.

As George MacDonald wrote in a poem, "They were looking for a king to slay their foes and left them high; Thou com'est little baby thing, that made a woman cry."

Let us live during this advent season with new enthusiasm, new happiness and an ever growing appreciation that Jesus Christ has come. "We also thank God constantly for this " (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

Prayer:

Almighty God, We thank you for the gift of Jesus, our Savior. Grant us grace to live with love and compassion and faithfulness every day. Amen.