

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

By Sister Pegge Boehm, PBVM

WATCH

Mark 13:33 Jesus said to his disciples: "Be Watchful"

The gospel writer uses the word "watch" four times in five verses! That is a clue that this may be an important word. But what does it mean for me, for us, today? Watch for what? The end of the world? My death? The destruction of the earth and those made poor by environmental destruction? Do I just stand by and "watch" it all happen? Or am I being invited to "watch" for where God is? Within me and around amidst all that appears to be violence, destruction and division?

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. We're beginning to prepare for the incarnation of Jesus Christ breaking into every aspect of creation. I'm reminded of a woman who just finds out that she is pregnant. The life within her grows and she can't wait until she can hear the heartbeat and the legs and arms wiggling within her. All of her family and friends and coworkers "watch" this new life grow within her and rejoice when they see this child born into the world. "Watching" for God is a lot like a pregnant woman watching and waiting. I believe we are all invited to "watch" for signs of God wiggling his way into our lives, however stressful and our world, however chaotic. God is present. God's heart is beating for us and within us. God is waiting to be born wherever we are. If everyone believed this and lived as if God's life was growing within, I'm sure we'd see a world filled with justice, all of creation embraced as sacrament.

PRAYER:

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
And why are you disquieted within me?
My hope is in the Beloved, my strength and my joy,
O my soul, open the door to Love!
Yes! Let us sing a song of diversity, a song of Oneness and Unity!
For we are all One in Love's Heart, now and forevermore.
Let us ever reflect the Peace we are!
(Psalm 43, [Psalms for Praying](#) by Nan Merrill)

