

“You Are Our Father”

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We are entering the new liturgical year of the Church, which starts on the 1st Sunday of Advent. This liturgical season is traditionally known as “joyful anticipation” to the coming of the Messiah, God to be among us, Emmanuel. Such divine presence in our midst enables us to call God, “You are our Father” stated in our first reading from Prophet Isaiah, the same prophet who heralded, God among us, Emmanuel.

The prophet is calling upon God for allowing us to live as if He does not exist. Not only God is present among us, Isaiah reminds God, “We are all the work of your hands.” The prophet seems to wrestle with God for giving us the free will, making the wrong choices to “become unclean people.” In spite of our transgressions, God remains our father, a parent who waits patiently wayward child to come back home.

The Responsorial Psalm invites us to come back home saying, “Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.” Advent is a call to come back home with hope and embrace “new life” which acknowledges the power of God’s name and his presence among us in Jesus Christ.

As we begin an advent journey, preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ, Our Brother and Savior, we are “not to be lacking in any spiritual gift.” In 2020, we have been faced with multiple challenges – racism and abuse of power by the police, COVID-19 pandemic and politically we are in suspense about the transition of political power. All these unprecedented and recycled challenges can make us impatient, leading to dissonance and pointing fingers at each other. Jesus is telling us, “Be watchful! Be alert!” for his full revelation in our personal and communal life.