

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

LOOK

To make room for something new in our lives, we usually need to discard something old. Janet compared this spiritual discipline to cleaning out the garage.

1. How messy is your garage (both literally and metaphorically)?
2. What are you hoping to throw out this Advent to make room for Christ?

BOOK

Mark 13:24-37

Ironically, the beginning of our church year is marked by the reading of the “small apocalypse” in the Gospel of Mark.

1. Mark paints a dramatic picture of the second coming of Christ. What are the key elements of this illustration and what is their significance?
2. What can we learn from the parable of the fig tree?
3. We do not know the day or the hour but we are told to “keep alert”. What does it mean to be awake and ready for the master’s return?

TOOK

When our heads and lives are full and cluttered, our hearts are often preoccupied as well. But Advent is a time to “wait on the knees of our hearts”.

1. What helps you personally to open your head, your heart, and your life to Christ in Advent? What are the barriers to doing this?
2. What “garage cleaning” work do we need to do as a parish to make room for our next Rector? Are we ready and eager for the new things God will do through that person?