



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“The Path to a Life of Joy”

We all have a path in life. The work we do, the profession we practice, or the life we tread point to us what our future might be. As much as we want or need to, we strive for the best to be assured of what life can bring us, not only for our own good but also for the good of the people around us, especially our family. As much as we are concerned about doing things for our physical life, we also need to look deeply into attending to our spiritual life even more.

Don't you realize it is so difficult to find these days where we experience peace and joy? Why is this? Our world is falling apart, and humanity is coming to a point when lives seem to have no hope for tomorrow. The global crises of war and natural calamities continue to strike many lives. Moral standards are falling apart. Economic lives are in disarray, and so on. It is so sad to say, but the truth is, it is what it is. But still, we can go beyond all these and find ways to experience life filled with wonder and joy. And that path is no other than the path of Jesus. The path of life that we all need to embrace.

In this Season of Advent, we hear the powerful words of John the Baptist, who prepared his people to welcome Jesus in their lives. John saw how crooked people's lives were before the Son of Man came into the world. He needed to proclaim the Lord's coming and straighten His paths. John spoke boldly, courageously, and convincingly about the Lord's coming. He called the people to change their lives, repent, and be baptized. Lo and behold, many opened up their lives to his invitation. However, many did not heed and lived their old ways.

Our situation today still reflects that many people haven't heard the voice of John or, more so, Jesus. Ideologies emerge, and many people try to stop God's message from being listened to anywhere. We are becoming a nation where religious freedom is threatened and even ostracized when you talk about the Bible, about God, about faith, and more so about Jesus. Often, we don't even do something about it and just resign, like singing the song “que sera, sera.”

John's proclamation, “*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths,*” is an invitation we cannot ignore, especially NOW. What is happening around us is an awakening moment to deepen our commitment to follow the Lord. Secondly, like John, to stand as a witness to the truth of the Gospel, Jesus himself. Thirdly, we need to prepare for the coming of the Lord when that day and time will come. Let us listen attentively with our ears, minds, and hearts. In this way, we may find that the true path to life is the path of Jesus, the way to peace, love, and joy!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual