

First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2022

Scripture Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Give light and the darkness will disappear of itself. —Desiderius Erasmus

Used to be that farmers set the standard for early morning wake-ups by listening to the rooster crow as the sun came up. According to a new study, roosters actually know that it's dawn because their internal clocks are simply wired that way.

Humans, however, don't seem to have that same internal alarm. Since most of us don't keep a rooster in the backyard for our morning wake-up call, we rely on a variety of alarm clocks — watches, the standard old clock radio or a classic alarm clock that you wind up every night — to drag us out of bed in the morning and get on with the day. There are many standard “alarm clock” iterations designed to jolt the body awake, including the Puzzle Alarm Clock, the Laser Target Alarm Clock, the Wake and Shake Alarm Clock and my favorite, the Flying Alarm Clock.

Do you love Harry Potter books? This one puts you right in the middle of a Quidditch match every morning. The clock itself actually launches out of its base like a Snitch and forces you to catch it in midair and return it to the base in order to shut off the alarm. No word on how many points one earns for this feat.

If you need one of these alarms, there's a pretty good chance that you're not a morning person. But whether you're the kind of person who wakes up in the morning fresh as a daisy, or the kind that requires constant annoyance to get out of bed, *there's another kind of wake-up call that all of us need to hear, and that's the spiritual kind.*

Get dressed and ready for the day, the apostle says. And how do we do this? We make choices. We choose to get out of bed and face the world. We choose what we're going to wear. You decide what not to wear and what you will wear. Paul urges us to “lay aside” the kind of spiritual clothing that's only suited for darkness, quarreling, jealousy and the like (vv. 13-14). These things are not suitable for the active Christian who wants to follow Jesus. Instead, Paul says we are to “put on ... light” (v. 12).

In other words, *we are to wake up each day prepared to shine for Jesus!*

On this first Sunday of Advent, let's remember that Jesus is the light that came into darkness. We, too, can cast light into the dark corners and hidden places, to help bring hope, peace, joy and love.

—Bob Kaylor with Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, may I not only rise to greet each day with the light of your life within me, but may I also stay awake to do the work to which you have called me. In your name. Amen.

Wishing you a Hope-filled Advent Season! Lisa & Pastor Ben Mote

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** 2 Peter 1-3
Monday: 1 Timothy 1-3
Tuesday: 1 Timothy 4-6
Wednesday: 2 Timothy 1-4
Thursday: Titus 1-3
Friday: 1 John 1-2
Saturday: Psalms 136-138

Circle Scramble



DIRECTIONS: In the circles of letters below are 10-letter words. Each circle has the letters of the word in the correct order. But you must determine where each word begins and in which direction the word is reading. Write your answer in the space provided.

1. **D**
A I
R C
E A
D T
E

4. **D**
N O
E S
C C
S R
E

7. **F**
E R
R E
R N
I

2. **O**
S P
T A
R E
O H
P

5. **U**
N M
E E
R R
A E
T

8. **N**
E O
L R
L T
A I
C

3. **D**
N U
A M
R M
O E
M

6. **E**
S Y
T R
E A
R E
Y

9. **A**
N T
E E
V R
U E
J

Solution: 1. eradicated, 2. apostrophe, 3. memorandum, 4. crescendo, 5. remunerate, 6. yesteryear, 7. interferer, 8. citronella, 9. rejuvenate.