

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday December 11, 2023 - John 1: 9-10

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him

Read John 1 for meditation and inspiration.



SECOND WEEK IN ADVENT

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

How did Isaiah the prophet of old say the Messiah's advent would be manifest?

*9:2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
Thou hast multiplied the nation,
thou hast increased its joy;
they rejoice before thee
as with joy at the harvest,
as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.*

Some of you may have remember the small Norwegian town of Rjukan (pronounced roo-kahn) which was in the news a few years ago. Situated between steep mountains, for six months every year the little town is shrouded in semi-darkness as the great peaks cast their shadows over the terrain below. And during the winter months, the only way the residents of the town can get a dose of sunlight is to take a cable car ride to the top of a nearby ridge. That is, until one cold October day when the entire village assembled to witness a miraculous event -- for the first time ever faint rays from the winter sun reached the town's market square!

But how did it happen? What brought the town out of the shadows and into the light? Believe it or not, a local artist devised a plan to install three giant mirrors high on the mountain. The solar-powered, computer-controlled mirrors steadily track the movement of the sun across the sky, reflecting its rays down onto the square and bathing it in bright sunlight. And now, finally, Rjukan has found its place in the sun!

On that October day, to mark the occasion of the mirrors' dazzling debut, a band performed the popular song, "Let the Sunshine In." The cheering town's people -- some on beach chairs and donning sunglasses -- watched that first moment as the darkness was illuminated and the town was dazzling with the joy of light. So too is the coming of the babe in Bethlehem's manger. For the light is come.

In the Glow of Jesus,

Roger

Roger

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



ADVENT IS A TIME OF ANTICIPATION, HOPE AND NEW BEGINNINGS.

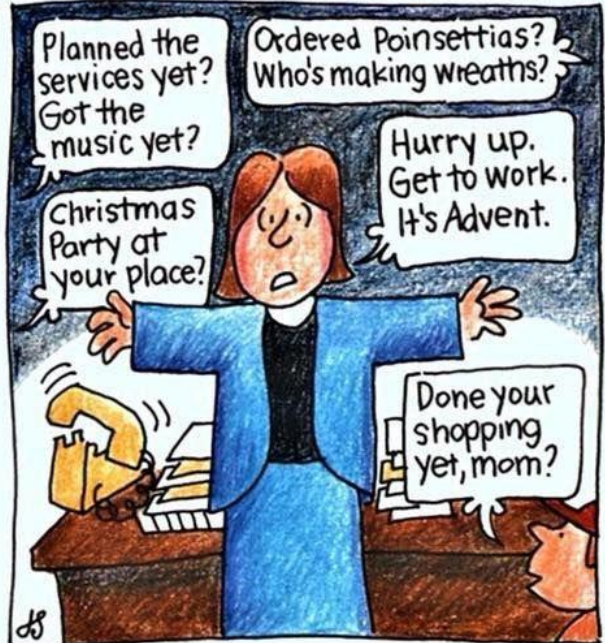
What happens when the Christmas Pageant gets scheduled in mid-December.





Slow down.
Quiet.
It's Advent.

ONE SUNDAY IN ADVENT



Planned the services yet?
Got the music yet?

Ordered Poinsettias?
Who's making wreaths?

Hurry up.
Get to work.
It's Advent.

Christmas Party at your place?

Done your shopping yet, mom?

ONE MONDAY IN ADVENT

THE ADVENT POLICE



I'm afraid I'll have to issue a summons. I definitely heard someone humming "Joy to the World" in the sacristy.



Was that a 'Fa la la la la' I heard coming from your office?

I'm so ashamed.



I'm sure those weren't Christmas decorations hanging from the Advent wreath.

Busted.