

As the Church Year turns we begin again with the season of Advent - which literally means coming or arrival. Advent is a season of waiting and trusting for God's kingdom to come into our lives. We are not waiting for what we expect or know but, in trust, we wait for what will be revealed. In God's grace and love we wait for that which is beyond our imagining and expectation. This for us now is as it was in the coming of Jesus as a babe in a manger; his life and ministry; his death and resurrection and his ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit. All beyond expectations. The themes of waiting and expectation are illuminated beautifully in Sarah Klassen's poem 'Advent' in which she uses theatrical framing to explore waiting, expectation, trust and belief.

We are waiting (again) for the One who has already come and gone, leaving us bereaved.

One waiting in the wings for the cue — political, apocalyptic or dramatic — to step into view, descend,

be finally revealed to the bewildered crowd — complicit or without guile. And to a remnant, impatient

for the curtain to rise on some anticipated vindication. As if

flamboyant entry to a final act will finally untangle everything:

a flawless *denouement*. As if (if you're not left behind) a book will open up, page after blinding page.

A prophet's alleged to have said: we cannot believe in one for whom - for reasons philosophical, emotional or rational —

we do not (cannot, will not any longer) wait.

**Are you looking for some devotional reading this Advent? Here are some suggestions....**

