



First Sunday of Advent – November 30, 2025

Theme: RNDM Mission: Presence of Hope

Scripture: Matthew 24:37-44

As we enter the season of Advent, the Gospel invites us into a posture of readiness and hope. Jesus' words "**Stay awake... be prepared!**" (Mt 24:42, 44)—remind us that God often comes quietly, in the midst of ordinary life, just as in the days of Noah. This call is not meant to stir fear, but to awaken our hearts to the faithful presence of God and the promise of salvation revealed in Christ.

In this light, we see how our call as RNDM—to be **a presence of hope** in the world—is deeply woven into the Advent message. "**Staying awake**" means being attentive to grace and aware of Christ already at work in our daily encounters—in people, in places, and in the fragile hopes of our world. It invites us to walk closely with the vulnerable and marginalised: those suffering injustice, discrimination, violence, ecological loss, and all who live with uncertainty and despair.

As the rhythm of Advent calls us to watch and wait, we are reminded of how hope shines through our daily presence:



In God's mission, hope is born anew,

A presence of hope shining through.

Hope grows when we listen with hearts that care,

Hope strengthens when we walk with those who bear.

Hope shines through healing, teaching, and prayer,

In reconciliation and the love we share.

Hope lives when we choose justice with mercy,

Embracing all in love, compassion, and solidarity.

"This Advent, may we keep our hearts awake—aware of God's quiet stirrings, responsive to the needs of those around us, and open to the surprising ways Christ comes to our lives. And may our presence, like Christ's, awaken hope in the lives of those we touch.

RNDM Constitutions Art 33

Our religious life is essentially a union of contemplation and mission. In silence and solitude, we experience the mystery of God's infinite love and hear the cry of the poor, which impels us to continue the mission of Jesus in our time.

Prayer

Light within all light,
Soul behind all souls,
at the breaking of dawn,
at the coming of day,
we wait and watch.

In the dawning of this day
let us know fresh shinings in our souls.
In the growing colours of a new beginning,
all around us
let us know the first lights of our heart.

Your Light within the morning light,
Your soul within the human soul,
Your presence beckoning to us
from the heart of life.

Great Star of the morning,
Inner Flame of the universe,
let us be a colour in this new dawning.

John Philip Newell, *Praying with the Earth: A Prayerbook for Peace*

Suggested Songs:

- City of God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcUjjukwL2Q>
- Christ be our Light <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nn7HI6ki9z8>

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