



Ministerial Region of the Good Shepherd, Kirwan

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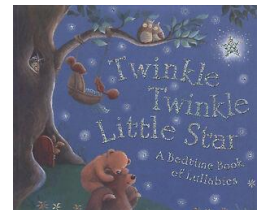
First Sunday of Advent Year A 30th November & 1st December 2019

"Pregnant" waiting

Ask any expectant mother if she wants her baby to come early and she will say no, she does not. As badly as her back hurts, as long as it has been since she has seen her toes, she is willing to wait because the baby is not yet ready. The eyelashes are ready, but not the fingernails. The kidneys are ready, but not the lungs. Those wing-shaped sacks are still preparing to make the leap from fluid to air. There is still more time to do in the dusky womb, where the baby is growing like a seed in the dark.



The child's parents may never be ready, especially if this is their first. They want this; they are terrified of this. They planned for this; they can't imagine how this happened. Meanwhile, they have a few baby-less weeks to go, which they can put to good use. They can make sure the nursery is ready. They can learn



to sing some lullabies. They can think about what it means to bring a human being into the world, and what it will take to raise a child up into his or her full humanity. All they cannot do is hold a baby in the light, because the baby is still in the dark.

[Barbara Brown Taylor, from "Redeeming darkness," **The Christian Century**, November 29, 2011.]

We celebrate the birth of God's Christ in the darkest days of the year. But the dawning of the light of Christ enables us not only to not fear the darkness but to find God in the darkness. The season of Advent calls us to such "pregnant waiting": not passive, disengaged waiting for we don't know what but waiting that anticipates and makes possible now for what is to come. The experience of waiting enables us to realise what we appreciate, value and cherish; waiting teaches us how to be present and attentive to family and friends; waiting opens our vision and spirits to realize the love of God in our midst.

Peace..... Dave

Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with God. Micah.6:8