



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor's Page –November 2015

What Are You Waiting For?

Luke 12:35: *"Keep your shirt on; keep the lights on! Be like house servants waiting for their master to come back from his honeymoon, awake and ready to open the door when he arrives...!"*-- from The Message

Those of us of a certain age remember Carly Simon and her pop song, *"Anticipation."* The lyrics are thoughtful. They are, *"We can never know about things to come, but we think about them anyway. And I wonder if I'm really with you now, or chasing after some finer day."* As the church year comes to a close with Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 22, and the new church year starts with the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29, anticipation is a key theme.

The church anticipates the fulfillment of Christ's reign. We wonder when Jesus is going to return to claim his bride, the Church. We're waiting. But unlike Carly Simon, we're waiting with certainty. We know Jesus' words -- *"Be certain of this: I will return, but no one knows when."*

The chorus to *"Anticipation"* goes, *"Anticipation is making me late, keeping me waiting."* It concludes by saying, *"These are the good old days."* Anticipation doesn't make Jesus' followers late. It should keep us on our toes. It is meant to give focus and energy to our lives.

Who fuels this always-on-the-alert attitude toward the present is the Holy Spirit. Christ's spirit is with us and in us. What makes these "the good old days" is remaining faithful and alert, not looking back.

We are almost at the start of the "holiday season." Unfortunately, Thanksgiving and Christmas overshadow Christ the King Sunday and the season of Advent. If you look at this time as waiting for Jesus' return, how would you celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas differently?

I challenge you to start each day between now and the end of the year by asking yourself, "Is what I'm planning on doing today what I want to be doing on the day Jesus returns?" and see what effect it has on your holiday season.

Certain of Christ's return and praying to be ready--

Pastor Pat