
Heart and Soul ... A Weekly Meditation

December 8, 2013

Waiting and Hoping

*“My whole being waits for my Lord –
more than the night watch waits for the morning.”*

Psalm 130:6 (Common English Bible)

During my theological studies I had a plum, part-time job: security staff for Agnes Scott College, an all women's college. There is no better job for a single man completing a master's degree than this one. The difficulty was that I would often be assigned a post in a little used facility on the campus – hour after hour making my rounds in a virtually empty building. This afforded me ample time for thinking, studying and waiting. Waiting was the most difficult – waiting for the hour I would surrender my post to the next security staff person.

There was also hope in those long hours; hope that a student would come by my post and find me interesting and chat. Honestly, that is why I sought this job, not the money, which was little. I sought this position because of hope – hope that I would meet college girls. It is fair to say that I was caught in a rhythm of waiting and hoping. This job was my own, personal season of Advent – the season for waiting and hoping. As the Church of Jesus Christ, our Season of Advent is the waiting for Jesus' promised return to earth. It is also a time of hope – hope for the love and justice of God to make right everything that is wrong, make whole everything that is broken.

Notice the language in this passage from Psalm 130 – *“My whole being waits for my Lord.”* That is full engagement. And implicit in this full engagement is hope – hope that something will be different because the Lord comes. It is easy to become discouraged when the wait seems to have no end. Being caught up in the thousand little things that have to be completed before Christmas, often results in little expectation that anything will ever be different. The result is that we are no longer waiting or hoping, except perhaps for the season to be over. This passage is timely for the church during Advent. Simply, it calls the Church from its busyness to reclaim the Christian practice of waiting and hoping – confident that the day does draw near that we shall see the Lord.

By Your Holy Spirit slow us down from our holiday rush that we may remember the reason for this time of year – and again hope and wait for the coming of the world's Savior. Amen.

Doug Hood