Dear Good Shepherd,

Karl Rahner writes this prayer in *Watch for the Light*:

> *Every year we celebrate the holy season of Advent, O God. Every year we pray those beautiful prayers of longing and waiting, and sing those lovely songs of hope and promise. Every year we roll up all our needs and yearnings and faithful expectation into one word: "Come!"*
>
> *And yet, what a strange prayer this is! After all, you have already come and pitched your tent among us. You have already shared out life with its little joys, its long days of tedious routine, its bitter end. Could we invite you to anything more with our "Come"? Could you approach any nearer to us than you did when you became the "Son of Man"? In spite of all this we still pray: "Come."*

Advent is an unsettled season that holds in tension the kingdom now and kingdom the not yet, the longing and hope, the judgment and redemption. Advent deepens the tension between what the world was created to be (good!) and what it now is, between what God has done and what God is doing and will do.

During this season of Advent, allow yourself to live in this tension. Feel the tug of God on your life. Listen for God's calls of justice and peace, caring and serving. Open yourself to embrace the love that God promises for all of us in the form of the baby Jesus. Pray for God to open your hearts and voices to tell the redeeming story of God's love once again.

Join us on the Advent Sundays for worship at 8:30 and 10:45am. Then join us on Wednesdays at either 12 or 7:30pm as we wait and watch, meditating on the song of Mary, the Magnificat, and the beautiful sung service of Holden Evening Prayer.

Advent. We wait. We pray. We ask Jesus to come.
Come Lord Jesus, Come.

Advent blessings,
Pastor Karen