

Joyful Expectation

Our [Gospel for the Second Sunday of Advent](#)

begins with a litany of names and titles.

Proclaiming these tongue-twisting names seems unnecessary and an awkward preface to the meat of the passage, but Luke is setting the preparation for the coming of Jesus in the context of world history. It is a real story about real people in a real place in real time. It is not a fairy tale set in some other world. Luke wants to make sure it is clear what is the universal purpose of God when he says that the gospel belongs to all people. The gospel is for the world. This is God's gift to God's creation.



Luke preserves these names of influential people for posterity because of their influence upon the lives of John and Jesus. The gospel will not only encounter the poor, lame, and blind, but also the synagogue rulers, high priests, governors, kings, treasurers, city officials, imperial guards, and finally the emperor himself. Luke is also speaking to the covenant community: "the Word of God came to John." John's ministry is the fulfillment of the collective prophetic voice: "Prepare a way for the Lord; clear a straight path for him." Luke later designates John's preaching as "the Good News."

Our first reading from Baruch, probably the least known of all the books of the Bible, is clear and unambiguous: A mourning and dispirited Jerusalem and people will have cause for celebration because God is about to act to bring those people home. The God of mercy and righteousness will not leave God's people scattered in exile. What a wonderful message for Advent. It evokes hope and expectation in the hearts of those of us who wait for the coming of Jesus, those of us who sometimes feel we are in exile in a strange land following a crooked path.

Paul's letter to the Philippians expresses affections generated by a long-standing relationship. Paul is not writing to a church he has only recently established, but to a church he has known for years. He received their prayers, their loving concern and their money. It is a genuine partnership that existed between Paul and his supporting church that accounts for the intimate tone of this prayer. Every time he thought of them he became thankful. Every time he prayed for them, it was an occasion for joy. His bond with them is one of pure affection: "God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus." The Advent pearl of wisdom for us is that "...you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God."

What is the Good News for us as proclaimed by Luke, spoken to those in physical and virtual exile by Baruch, and in supportive communities like Philippi?

“Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Advent is a time to renew and deepen our relationship with God. It is a time of patient waiting for God, prayerful and trusting waiting for God, in this world that so needs it. Because the season of Advent is so important the Church gives us four weeks to celebrate it. Let us celebrate Advent with our hearts. It is an opportunity to step back from that which preoccupies and distracts us daily and make a straight way for the Lord this Advent.

May our prayer every day be: “Come, Lord Jesus.”

Sr. Maria Orlandini, OSF
FAN Director of Advocacy

Suggested Action:

In these days of Advent often use the mantra: Come Lord Jesus.

Join the prayer of Immigrants in expectation for a path to Citizenship and an end to Title 42

Suggested Petitions:

That our heart may be filled with joyful expectation, we pray...

That the world may be mindful of people who are poor in this time in history, we pray...

Collect Prayer:

**Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

Amen

Tomorrow is Giving Tuesday: Help Support Our Work

Do you have a Franciscan Heart?

- Do you see all people as equal and long for justice and dignity for everyone?
- Do you want to express solidarity with those who are marginalized and impoverished?
- Do you feel a kinship with all God's creation and long for sustainable ways of life?
- Do you want to build peace and relationships of mutual respect and understanding?



On November 30th, we celebrate [Giving Tuesday](#); a day when the entire country gets together to show support for nonprofits doing essential work. St. Francis and his friars went out on the roadside asking for alms to fund their work. That is what we must do to continue raising the Franciscan voice in Washington. Just like him, we are in solidarity with the marginalized, we care for creation and raise awareness on the need to hear the "cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." (Pope Francis, Laudato Si, 49)

Tomorrow is #GivingTuesday. If you have a Franciscan Heart and would like to participate in the spirit of giving, [please support FAN as we work to transform the world, inspired by the Gospel and the examples of St Francis and St Clare.](#)

Congressional Briefing on TPS for Cameroon; Vigil for Citizenship

The Cameroon Advocacy Network and CASA are hosting a [Congressional briefing on the need for Temporary Protected Status \(TPS\) for Cameroon](#) tomorrow, **November 30th at 1pm ET (10am PT)** both in-person and online. A recording will be made available to those who register.



The one-hour briefing will include an introduction from Senator Chris Van Hollen and will address country conditions in Cameroon that qualify the country for designation under Temporary Protected Status. Speakers will highlight deteriorating country conditions in Cameroon that demonstrate why safe return is impossible, including ongoing armed conflict, massive internal displacement, and dangerous political conditions, as well as consequences for Cameroonians who have thus far been deported there. [Register by clicking here.](#)

Additionally, on **December 1st at 12pm ET (9am PT)**, FAN's own Sr. Marie Lucey will join the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) for a half-hour prayer for citizenship and update on the immigration provisions in the Build Back Better Act. Join in on [Facebook by clicking here.](#)

Laudato Si Action Platform Resource and Advent Prayer from LCWR

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious recently hosted a webinar that provided a real time look at the Laudato Si Action Platform and gathered questions about enrollment, the self-assessment, reflection, and more. They have made the [recording available by clicking here.](#)

Additionally, LCWR has opened an invitation for everyone to join them on **Dec 8th at 1pm ET (10am PT)** for a short, 30 minute gathering of Advent prayer in the spirit of Laudato Si' as we journey together toward



integral ecology.

[Click here to register.](#)

Join the Faithful Democracy Week of Action Dec. 6-10

FAN will be joining our good friends at [Faithful Democracy](#) and [Faith in Public Life](#) on a Week of Action December 6-10. A *Revival For Change: Faithful Democracy Week of Action* is an effort to amplify the urgency of this critical moment to protect our voting rights and ensure that our Members of Congress pass the Freedom to Vote Act legislation. **The goal of the week is to restore hope and ignite a revival of faith in our communities as we continue to push for the passage of transformative democracy legislation.**



Each day of the week we will join together in a collective advocacy action that targets Congress to remember that our Democracy must remain a priority. Faith leaders have and continue to be at the forefront of breaking barriers toward the freedom of all people and this an opportunity to lift our voices for change. **Join in on the action from anywhere in the country** by participating in a call-in day, taking the opportunity to share on social media, and join an ongoing prayer and fast. We will provide the links soon.

Please fill out [this form](#) to be a cosponsor. Our toolkit is still being developed, but [here](#) is the link for your convenience.

Take Action: Urge Your Senator to Pass BBB

The [Build Back Better](#) (BBB) plan recently passed through the House of Representatives and is headed to the Senate for consideration.

This historic legislation lowers costs for working families, creates good-paying jobs, includes crucial climate provisions, provides historic immigration reforms and modernizations and helps build an economy that works for all of us. The plan is paid for by making the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations pay their fair share of taxes. [See this fact sheet for more.](#)

"Hi, my name is _____. I'm a constituent of the Senator's. I urge them to support the Build Back Better plan to fund healthcare, housing and jobs, help children and families and more by making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share in taxes."



CALL YOUR SENATORS:
1-888-894-6720

As they negotiate this package in the coming weeks, it is likely that the plan will go through some changes. **Now is the time for us to raise our voices and tell our Senators to pass the Build Back Better Act.** Here are two ways to take action:

1. First, **make a call to the Senate at 1-888-894-6720**, and use the script in the attached

- graphic to urge your Senator to pass this important legislation.
2. Second, **after calling them, email your Senators.** Our partners at the Maryknoll Office of Global Concern developed this [action alert to help us take action](#).

The Build Back Better plan begins to create an economy that works for all Americans by investing \$2 trillion in working families. We need this legislation passed now.

Virtual Event: Beyond Settler Borders

Several Pacific coast based advocacy organizations are hosting a [virtual event](#) on **December 8th from 4-5:30pm PT/ 7-8:30pm ET**, the third anniversary of the death of Jakelin Caal Maquin, a 7-year-old Maya Q'eqchi' girl who died within U.S. immigration custody. [Beyond Settler Borders](#) aims to raise awareness that many of the children who have died at the U.S. settler border (including some in the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection) are Indigenous children from several nations and pueblos.

The vigil will be followed by a panel of Indigenous leaders and experts who will cover various themes/topics from Indigenous solidarity, harm/violence against Indigenous children, & forced displacement.

[Please click here to register.](#)



Beyond Settler Borders
In Memory of Jakelin Caal
December 8, 2021
4:00 - 5:30 PM PST / 7:00 - 8:30 PM EST
Bilingual Event: English & Spanish

The poster features three circular logos: 'Pisa Soul' on the left, 'MAYAN MOVEMENT' in the center, and 'Soy Ojibwa' on the right. A faint map of the Pacific Northwest is visible in the background. At the bottom, a pink banner reads 'SUSTAINABLE SEATTLE'.