

# Thanksgiving and Advent message from the Office of General Minister and President



November 22, 2021

## TRANSCRIPT

Hello, Disciples. My name is Lee Hull Moses and I serve in the [Office of the General Minister and President](#). I bring greetings from our GMP, who is on sabbatical for the next couple of months.

As many of us in the United States pause for the Thanksgiving holiday this week, I want you to know how grateful we in the OGMP are for all of you, for the ministry you do, the ways you are serving your neighbors near and far, the ways you are caring for each other, the ways you are bearing witness to the limitless love of God we know through Jesus Christ.

Advent begins this week, right on the heels of Thanksgiving, as it often does – this season of waiting and watching and hoping, and as we enter Advent, I've been thinking about some words from poet [Jane Kenyon](#) –

She was giving advice to writers, but I think it's good advice for people of faith, too. She says:

“Be a good steward of your gifts. Protect your time. Feed your inner life. Avoid too much noise. Read good books, have good sentences in your ears.”

I love that last bit – read good books, have good sentences in your ears. I've been trying to do that lately with my first cup of coffee in the morning, I try to keep start the day with some good sentences, some good words – sometimes a poem, or a few pages of the novel I'm working on. Often, I find myself turning to the Psalms, those ancient words always remind me that throughout human history people have turned to God in complicated times to lift up their fear and their hope, their grief, their anger, their gratitude. The Psalms are very good words.

And there are so many good sentences, so many good words to keep in our ears, as we walk through the Advent season there's the visions of the prophets, there's Mary's Magnificat, the words of the angels that tell us we do not need to fear....

Personally, my favorite Advent words are from [Zechariah](#), who promises that *by the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us and guide our feet into the way of peace.* (Luke 1:78-79)

And then, of course there is the Word, the Word who was with God, who is with God, who became flesh and lived among us – the word we are waiting for, the word who has already come.

So, church, what words will be in your ears in this season of waiting and watching? I pray that they will be words of blessing, gratitude, and hope.