

first SUNDAY OF ADVENT



■ LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ... Come Lord Jesus, be our light! Grant us eyes to recognize you as we wait and watch for you in the world around us.

■ READ THE GOSPEL for the First Sunday of Advent (Cycle C) Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

“Be vigilant at all times and pray ...”

■ REFLECT WITH A STORY

Jesus paints a frightening picture in this week’s Gospel: the sun, moon and stars are in dismay. The waves of the ocean are being tossed about. Even heaven is shaking! God’s very creation—the world in which we live and work—is trying to tell us something, and Jesus is encouraging us to pay attention. God reveals his greatness through creation; creation is beautiful and gives us what we need to live and to eat. But if we do not care for creation today, we may be in trouble in the future.

How do we care for God’s creation? In Guatemala, farmers like Inez Ramirez are working hard to care for plants, water and the soil that grows their crops. Like his father before him, Inez is a coffee farmer. But he is facing major challenges. His crops have contracted a fungus known as coffee leaf rust, which is destroying coffee crops across Central America.

Despite losing half his crop, Inez is determined and hopeful. Just as Jesus calls us to “Be vigilant at all times and pray,” Inez remains watchful for opportunities and is eager to try new ways of farming. He and his brothers and parents are working through their challenges as one community. “We’ll figure out a way,” Inez says.

Inez sees God’s goodness in creation and takes care of it to help his family and future generations. Jesus also asks us to pay attention to how he is present in the world. We can show our love for Him and for others through the actions we take today.



Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS

PRAY

Lord, you call us to be watchful because we do not know what tomorrow may bring. We pray that we may be ready to answer your call without delay and help one another along the way. Amen

REFLECT

Inez prepared for the future by recognizing God’s goodness in creation and caring for it. How do you care for God’s creation in your daily life?

ACT

This week, make a list of ways that you notice God’s goodness through creation.

GIVE

Care for creation and support farmers like Inez Ramirez. When you buy ethically produced coffee you help others care for creation.

Visit ethicaltrade.crs.org.