

First Sunday of Advent: November 27<sup>th</sup>

Romans 13:11-14

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### Wake Up!

Advent begins with the sound of an alarm going off. The Apostle Paul insists that as followers of Jesus Christ we must awaken and respond given the urgency of our time. There were moments in the church's history when readers preferred to brush aside these strange texts about last things and the end of the world. Yet here we are in the midst of dramatic climate change, facing the extinction of countless numbers of species, looking at the ocean levels rising cataclysmically, and experiencing our local weather swing drastically in new directions. Perhaps these eschatological texts that form the basis of the lectionary readings during the season of Advent still have something to teach us. Today's reading from Romans urges us to change our ways by laying aside old habits and adopting new ones.

What does honorable living look like for you and me? During the past year I have started picking up the litter on the road beneath my house: fast food containers, car parts, beer cans, you name it and I have picked it up. It's not fun and it doesn't seem to deter the hordes of drivers from continuing to toss unwanted items out their car windows. Yet, I continue to persist as a way to express thanks to the earth that provides us with a home and the resources that sustain us.

Prayer: Spirit God, move among us during this season of Advent. May we put on the armor of light and work for the healing of your creation. Amen.

Practice: Adopt a street or park in your neighborhood and keep it clean this Advent season.