Dear Wollaston Congregational Church Members and Friends,

Now that the Thanksgiving holiday is over, it is time to turn our attention toward Advent and the coming Christmas season. I believe that the church has the opportunity to make the greatest impact on the culture at this time of year. After all, stores, restaurants, coffee shops, and other places of gathering are full of holiday decorations and lights. Christmas songs and carols are played 24/7 in retail outlets. It is almost impossible to escape this season.

It is perhaps a little counter-intuitive, then, that our church would offer a place of calm and quiet amid the cultural Christmas clamor. And yet, I really think that is what we are called to do. First, we can do that by reminding our friends and neighbors that Advent is a season of watching and waiting. And then we can invite them to join us in that attitude.

The culture may insist that “you’d better not laugh, you’d better not cry” because Santa Claus is coming to town. The stimuli of the public places may cheer us, but they may also exhaust us. The pressure to reproduce the “perfect Christmas” may excite or overwhelm us. And the expectation of cheerfulness may be too much for those of us who have experienced losses over the past year.

Our sacred story proclaims that both laughter and crying are indeed a part of our Advent journey. This journey invites us to enter into the sacred longing that was experienced by the ancients and continues in our world today. Our journey invites us to accept imperfection in ourselves and others, as we anticipate the coming of Christ. Because Christ came in the least perfect of all circumstances: as a tiny infant born to a poor couple dislocated from their family and caught up in the political upheaval of their time.

And so, I invite you, your family, your friends and your neighbors, to participate in the Advent journey at Wollaston Congregational Church this year.

**On Wednesdays (December 6th, 13th and 20th) 6-7 pm** come to

"Feed Your Body and Your Soul"  for supper and meditation.

All are welcome to come and find a time of quiet and calm in the midst of the over-busy holiday culture.

**Sunday worship during December at 10 am**: remembering the Advent themes of faith, hope, joy, and love.

**And on Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24th:**

* **10 am Joyful Christmas Sunday Worship**
* **5 pm** **Christmas Eve Worship**

We welcome the newborn Jesus with communion and our circle of light.

Costumes will be provided for all children who would like to participate in the live nativity in both the morning and evening Christmas Eve services.

I’m looking forward to seeing you this season.

Advent blessings,

Rev. Liz