Devotional

By: Rev. John Mullaney

Read: Matthew 24:42

*“Keep awake therefore, for you do not know what day your Lord is coming.”*

Staying vigilant in these days is not always easy.  It has been an incredibly long and difficult year.  But we are called to watch and to wait—that’s what Advent is really all about. Nothing has taught me more about the kind of patience that is required of us than being a parent.

When our oldest daughter Maggie was two and a half, she was given a little nativity set by her grandmother.   It was meant to be played with.  The figures were children, dressed up for a nativity play.  Maggie LOVED them.  They were her favorite toys for the entire month of December. The three Wisemen would join her for tea parties. Mary would lovingly give Joseph kisses with a loud, “Mwa!”  Shepherds were known to spend time with Winnie the Pooh and Tigger too. But her favorite piece of that Nativity was the teeny, tiny, sweet baby Jesus.  She carried him around in her pudgy little hand everywhere she went.  Occasionally she would misplace him, as toddlers do, and she would look at Denise or me and ask, “Where dat baby?”

And we would look.  He could be anywhere.  Sometimes we found baby Jesus in one of her tea cups.  Sometimes he was in the tissue box. Sometimes he was mixed in with her box of crayons.  You just had to look for where ever Maggie had been last and there was Jesus.

She found it so easy to carry that little baby with her.  He was there at her tea party, he was there when she got her nose wiped, and as she colored in her coloring book.  And when she couldn’t see him, she wanted to know where he was.  She just wanted that little baby with her all the time.  She wanted him near her.

And Maggie’s desire is and should be our desire. We should be looking for that little baby everywhere and in the most unexpected places.

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