

# What We Are Waiting For: Fulfillment

**TEXT:**  
**Isaiah 7:10-17**  
**Matthew 1:18-25**

December 23, 2007

**W**e come to Advent each year with different hopes and expectations. This happens, in part, because we are different people than we were last year, we have experienced life in a different way this year, and we are a different community of faith.

We come to this time of the year and we often reflect on the all that has occurred in our lives, the changes and losses, the hopes and the fears. Both of my parents had significant health issues. When my mother visited us in April, she ended up going to Lawrence Memorial Hospital in the middle of the night, with a case of congestive heart failure. One of the doctors on the staff had been doing research in high altitude sickness, and diagnosed that this was the problem my mother faced. He changed her prescriptions and sent her home.

On the Monday before Thanksgiving, my step-father had heart valve replacement surgery. The first day of recovery was tough but on Thanksgiving Day he went home from the hospital after stopping first at the family Thanksgiving Dinner at Trader Vic's restaurant.

This Advent has been different for my family as we have reflected on the year past.

And yet, as we come to the end of the season, and turn our attention to Christmas and the birth of the Christ Child, we discover that the purpose, the completion, the fulfillment of Advent is the same: The Lord comes.

Korean feminist theologian, Sun Lee Park, captures that sense of fulfillment in her poem Prophecy:

All the broken hearts  
shall rejoice;  
all those  
who are heavy laden,  
whose eyes are tired  
and do not see,  
shall be lifted up  
to meet  
with the motherly healer.  
The battered souls and bodies  
shall be healed;  
the hungry  
shall be fed;  
the imprisoned  
shall be free;  
all her earthly children  
shall regain joy  
in the reign  
of the just and loving one  
coming for you  
coming for me  
in this time  
in this world.<sup>i</sup>

As you and your family gather for this Christmas, may the peace, hope, love and joy promised in the coming of the Christ Child be fulfilled.

<sup>i</sup> Sun Ai Lee Park, from Prophecy, first published in Hong Kong in the journal of Asian feminist theology, *In God's Image* (April 1986)] *Resources for Preaching and Worship, Year B*, (Westminster/John Knox Press, 2002) 8

**This sermon delivered by  
Kent Winters-Hazelton  
First Presbyterian Church  
2415 Clinton Parkway  
Lawrence, KS 66047**