

'One of the most beautiful passages of Scripture is **Luke 1.39.-56**. Mary's visit to Elizabeth made her aware of what she was waiting for. The child leapt for joy in her. Mary affirmed Elizabeth's waiting and...burst into joy herself. These two women created space for each other to wait. They affirmed for each other that something was happening that was worth waiting for.

I think that is the model for the Christian community...a community of support, celebration, and affirmation. Prayer is ... coming together around the promise. It is lifting up what is already there. Eucharist is ... saying 'thank you' for the seed that has been planted. It is saying 'we are waiting for the Lord, who has already come.' The whole meaning of the Christian community lies in offering a space in which we wait for that which we have already seen. Christian community is the place where we keep the flame alive among us, and take it seriously, so that it can grow and become stronger in us. In this way we can live with courage, trusting that there is a spiritual power in us that allows us to live in this world without being seduced by despair, lostness, and darkness.

Our waiting is always shaped by alertness to the word. It is waiting in the knowledge that someone wants to address us. The question is, are we at home? Are we at our address, ready to respond to the doorbell? Jesus says you must stand ready, stay awake, stay tuned to the word of God, so that you will survive all that is going to happen and be able to stand confidently in the presence of God together in community'.
Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)

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Please note! Items for 7/52 should be given to **Sally** by **midnight THURSDAY** on 641305 or email: ian.pratt5@btopenworld.com

7/52 @ RBC

13 December 2020
Third Sunday of advent



Third Sunday of Advent

Prayers for Ryde continue every Monday for 15 minutes at 7pm. Join in using the link at **[Pray for Ryde – Continuing in Prayer](#)**
This is followed by our own prayer meeting using the usual link

Check out our website at **www.rydebaptist.xyz** for general updates, sermon notes and suggestions for reading and study.



