



**Year C, First Sunday of Advent,  
December 1, 2024:**

Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Psalm 25:1-10

1Thessaionians 3:91-11

Luke 21: 25-36

*"Lead me in your truth and teach me, for **you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**" Psalm 25:5*

"KNOWING" is the mental comfort zone or circle we create to hold our experiences. It contains the wisdom, knowledge and understanding of how we responded to life's circumstances, both positive and negative.

"NOT KNOWING," can stir the mental response, real or imagined, of uncertainty, anxiety and fear, to situations that stand outside our circles of KNOWING. "NOT KNOWING" can be opportunities for transformation. Both tug at our comfort zones.

Advent reminds us that HOPE, generated by God's steadfast love, incarnate in Jesus our Messiah, resides eternally in our zone of KNOWING: KNOWING also that we, African AMERICANS, forged by four hundred years of oppression are a people of resilience, resourcefulness, persistence, ingenuity and agility. In this HOPE, we stand courageous against forces that minimize us as Children of God *and* threaten our position and rights as Citizens of America.

This "KNOWING" stands flint faced before "NOT KNOWING" to create a future that **"hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."** (Declaration of Independence)

*Rev. Julia*