

## **An Advent meditation**

Happy New Year! Today we begin another liturgical year. I once met a don (professor) at Oxford University who scheduled his life according to the church's calendar: its seasons, its saints' days, and its liturgical hours. He refused to use or even to acknowledge the more arithmetic 12-month, numbered-day, 24-hour subdivided calendar that most of us follow. Making an appointment with him was difficult, to say the least.

We don't need to go to the extreme of that Oxford don, but perhaps we might pay a bit more attention to our distinctive, somewhat countercultural church calendar. There could be some pleasantly surprising gifts awaiting us, such as the peace and perspective offered by the Advent Season – the season of the advent, or coming, of God. It is a season that places our lives in a cosmic context or, greater still, a framework as large as God herself. We won't find that in our holiday shopping at WalMart, Macy's, or even Neiman Marcus. It can't be bought; it can't be built. It comes only as a love-motivated and grace-saturated blessing.

Let us pray:

*Come among us Mothering God, Mothering Christ, Mothering Spirit. As you gave birth to us as the Alpha, the fertile source and beginning of all, so also embrace us at last as the Omega, the welcoming goal and end of all. Come among us Birthing God, Feeding Christ, Nurturing Spirit. Amen.*