

November 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent

Tradition! (Reclaiming Tradition)

2 Kings 22:1-10, 14-20; 23:1-3

The Rev. Lynn P. Lampman

Background Information:

During the 18th year of his reign King Josiah of Judah ordered the **repair of Temple** that had fallen into disrepair. During the rebuilding work, there was a discovery of an **ancient scroll from the book of Deuteronomy** (which had been hidden because of the fear of what Josiah's grandfather Manessah would do to and with it, since he showed hostility toward God and the things of God during this 50+ reign).

When it was taken to the Josiah and read, he realized that **the people had strayed from the ways of God.**

They had forgotten the covenant and in so doing **lost their identity and mission** (that of being: God's people and a light to the nations)

Sermon Summary:

Josiah called all the people together to hear the scroll read. For if the people were to regain what they had once lost they would need to: **renew their commitment to the covenant.** Second, Josiah made sure there was a **clean up at the Temple.** Then, King Josiah order that all should **mark their calendar and celebrate the Passover,** and it should move beyond a celebration to be had in the home, but by all the people and the nation.

Sermon Application

As we enter the season of Advent, and prepare for the coming of Jesus, we too can:

renew our commitment to the covenant

- Remember our identity: that of being God’s people
- Remember our mission: and being a light to and for all people

Clean house by straightening up, ridding ourselves of things, and doing some dusting and decorating. Reclaim traditions that strengthen our connection to God and one another.

Mark the **calendar and celebrate**, so we don’t forget that God has saved us the Hebrews people and God saves us too,.

This is the time to remember and not forget.

And, to make a visit to lost and found, and there find our identity and mission once again.