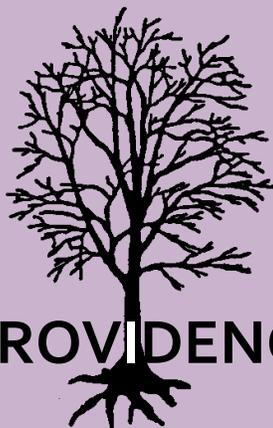




Advent 2016



*Third Sunday of Advent,
December 11*



Women of

PROVIDENCE

in Collaboration

"The Providence person speaks the word of loving care as the word of compassion and from an attitude of deep respect and prayer." — Myra Rodgers, CDP

Each year as Advent approaches, I sense an aura of newness/freshness, and a certain excitement begin to build in me. Advent has a certain 'feel' – flavour – mood, as we once again prepare for God's coming among us. I dare say that Advent invites us to see with new eyes—the eyes of a child.

Recently my friend broke her ankle. The pain of weight-bearing greatly restricted her mobility. Her five year old grandson, Alex, came for a visit. When he learned of her predicament, without hesitation he walked over to his father and asked, "May I borrow your cell-phone?" The father handed Alex the phone and he in turn handed it to his grandmother and said, "Put this on the table beside your bed. When you need help, phone me. You can phone me anytime, even in the middle of the night!"

Advent reminds us of how God inserted God's Self into our world by taking on the vulnerability of a child—a baby. As Providence People we are called, like Alex, to respond to God's coming as we speak the word of compassion to our hurting world. True compassion moves one beyond feeling sorrow in witnessing the suffering of another. True compassion means entering deeply into the experience of another. It implies sensitivity and a vulnerability to be effected by the experience of the other and to be called to give aid to the other. Compassion then, is a uniting, a bringing into communion, of two individuals' experience.

This Advent, may we remember in the words of the Prophet Isaiah (11:6):
"A little child shall lead them."

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