



Dec. 2, 2018 . Lk. 21: 25-28, 34-36 & Jer. 33:14-16

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[More Fr. Beck](#) (With permission)

Stone, Naomi. [Midnight Ride to Freedom](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Lighting Advent Candles](#)

https://newmelleray.org/Homily_Library

ENTERING THE SCENE:

[Fr. Rolheiser](#) reminds us that: “To light a candle is an act of hope. In the days of apartheid in South Africa, Christians there used to light candles and place them in windows as a sign to themselves and to others that they believed that some day this injustice would end. A candle burning in a window was a sign of hope and a political statement. The government didn’t miss the message. It passed a law making it illegal to place a lit candle in a window, the offense being equal to owning a firearm, both considered equally dangerous. This eventually became a joke among the kids: “Our government is afraid of lit candles!”

They had reason to be! Lit candles, more than firearms, overthrew apartheid. Hope, not guns, is what ultimately transforms things. To light a candle as an act of hope is to say to yourself and to others that, despite anything that might be happening in the world, you are still nursing a vision of peace and unity based upon something beyond the present state of things and

this hope is based upon deeper realities and powers than the world admits. To light a candle is to state publicly that you believe that what’s real and what isn’t is ultimately determined by powers and issues that go beyond what’s seen on the evening news. To light a candle is an act of political defiance. It’s also an act of hope.” Where do you/I see the hope these days?

LUKE 21:25-36

25 Jesus said to his disciples: “There will be **signs** in the **sun**, the **moon** and the **stars**. On the **earth**, **nations** will be in **anguish**, **distraught** at the **roaring** of the **sea** and the **waves**. 26 Men will die of **fright** in **anticipation** of what is coming upon the **earth**. The **powers** in the **heavens** will be **shaken**. 27 After that, men will see the **Son of Man** coming on a **cloud** with great **power** and **glory**. 28 When these things begin to happen, **stand up straight** and **raise your heads**, for your **ransom** is **near** at hand.

34. "Be on **guard** lest your **spirits** become **bloated** with **indulgence** and **drunkenness** and **worldly** cares. The great day will **suddenly** close in on you like a **trap**. 35. The day I speak of will come upon all who dwell on the face of the **earth**. 36. So be on the **watch**. **Pray constantly** for the **strength** to **escape** whatever is in **prospect**, and to **stand secure** before the **Son of Man**"

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus gives us hope by encouraging us to stand secure in God’s unconditional love. How does this make hope possible for me?

PRAYER: Lord, each Advent I reset my spiritual clock, much as I do my time keeping devices with the advent of daylight savings time. This gives me the chance to have the chance to go beneath the surface of my life much as my part of world enters the phase of cold and apparent dormancy of nature. Help me to use this new Advent in ways that nature does as she prepares for the new that will come in the spring. Amen