LUMUNOS
SHINE A LIGHT ON YOUR CALLING

Advent I: Keep Awake

Mark 13:37: "And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Carl Sagan: "Our species needs, and deserves, a citizenry with minds wide awake…."

Dear *{{First Name}}*,

Slang for "awake," the word "woke" originated in African American vernacular at the end of the last century. Example: "I was asleep, but then the phone rang and now I'm woke." In the last two decades, its usage has evolved. Being "woke" is now less about literal, physical waking from sleep and more about how much someone is attuned to social issues. Merriam-Webster currently defines "woke" as "aware of and actively attentive to important facts and issues (especially issues of racial and social justice)." One might say that being "woke" is a particular kind of keeping awake and alert.

These days, "woke" is a freighted word that can arouse strong feelings—which is part of what makes it a word worth pondering at this time of year. For even as the days grow shorter and darker and much of the natural world seems to sleep, Advent calls us to be awake—and yes, maybe even to be "woke."

Advent especially calls us to be awake to the possibility of God's coming into our midst, with all the ramifications that such a coming has for social, racial, political, economic, and environmental justice. Those things require change: change in ourselves, change in our understanding of who God is and what God does, change in how we regard others, and change in how we pay attention and respond to the world around us.

In what aspects of your life are you already awake and alert? In what ways might Advent be calling you to be even more deeply "woke"?

—Angier Brock

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Note from Staff

These Advent Reflections will arrive weekly on Fridays to your inbox for December and can also be cherished in print and digital form in the Lumunos Newsletter. We will not be sending a December ENews.
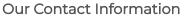
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