

St. Andrew's, Sedona  
St. Andrew's Day, 1st Sunday in Advent  
November 27, 2016  
The Rev. Grayce O'Neill Rowe

Come and See!! Come and See!!

Can't you hear Andrew as he tells his brother, Simon, Peter, can't you hear the excitement in his voice when he says Come and See?! Andrew had been a disciple of John the Baptist but there was something about Jesus, there was something in John the Baptist's words when Jesus walked by, there was something in John's words when he said "Look, here is the Lamb of God." There was something that made Andrew hear that, something when Andrew saw Jesus that made him leave John and follow Jesus. There was something that when he asked Jesus where he was staying and Jesus responded, Come and See, there was something that made Andrew come. And upon seeing, there was something that made him choose to make those three words his life's work, Andrew lived his days saying Come and See. To his brother, Peter, Andrew said, Come and See. To the gathered crowds when they needed food, Andrew took what a little boy offered, gave it to Jesus and in so doing, once again, said Come and See.

We are St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Our patron saint is Andrew, this very same Andrew. There is little known about him except that he was so excited about Jesus, there was something about Jesus, that he, Andrew, lived his life saying Come and See.

St. Andrew's, this wonderful church community in so many ways says to the people of Sedona, the people of the Village of Oak Creek, of Camp Verde, the people of Cottonwood and Cornville, to every tourist who comes through our doors, this amazing church says Come and See in so very many different ways. I have to admit that this invitation of Come and See could not have been missed this morning when, oh I'm guessing here, but when people within a 50 mile radius, ok I might be exaggerating a bit, but I'm pretty sure that there were lots of people who heard us proclaim

as we were led by these four amazing bagpipers. I'm certain that people heard us say Come and See, Come and See.

Our Monday night suppers, our worship services at Sedona Winds and Kachina Point, the opening of our doors to so many groups who meet in our Parish Hall, our Rummage Sale, our Day of the Dead Celebration, our shindigs and the list goes on and on, all of these activities say Come and See.

The ways that so many of you are involved in and serving your community, each and every way says Come and See. And so it is right to celebrate this day, this day that we honor our patron saint, St. Andrew. Just look at these vestments and I have to admit, I can't wait for the feast that awaits us in the Parish Hall.

In the midst of our celebrations today please do remember that today is also the 1st Sunday in Advent, it is the beginning of a new church year. How very wonderful that we are having such a delicious and, yes, noisy celebration for this first Sunday in a brand new church year.

This Season of Advent is a season of both getting ready as well as continuing to live a Come and See life. Our Gospel today tells us to be alert for we do not know when Jesus is coming. Andrew was certainly alert for he could have so easily missed seeing Jesus, he could have missed seeing the little boy with the loaves and fishes. Andrew was awake. Andrew was ready.

Advent calls us to do the same. We need to be awake to the Come and See moments in our lives. We need to be awake to the needs of others, we need to be awake to the opportunities to say by our words or to say by our actions, Come and See. Come and See this amazing church community, come worship with us.

Come and See Jesus as we live as his hands, and his feet, as we live as his heart and his mind. Come and See as we live under the authority of his love.

It is also a time to remember to live Come and See lives so that people who are hurting, people who are grieving, people who are frightened can be offered hope and solace. When our world seems to be filled with darkness, it is important to live Come and See lives.

Our Gospel today for the 1st Sunday in Advent was written by Matthew after the destruction of the temple. The people were grieving, they were frightened. There are people today who are frightened, who are grieving.

This 1st Sunday in Advent tells us to keep awake so that we will be able to see those who need to hear, Come and See. Keep awake so that you will be able to say Come and See, Come and See the one who will wipe away your tears, Come and See the one who will fill your darkness with light.

St. Andrew's has a wonderful future. Just as Advent points not to the end times but instead to a time of beginnings, to the birth and the rebirth of our Prince of Peace, of our God who even now comes to live among us,

St. Andrew's is embarking on a new year that will be filled with the excitement of walking this journey with a new rector. St. Andrew's will be filled with new opportunities to go out into our communities and to proclaim Come and See.

How very exciting.

You don't want to miss it so Keep Awake so that you can live your days like Andrew lived his, Keep Awake so that at every opportunity you, too, can say

Come and See.