

Second Sunday of Advent



As we live these days of Advent, let us simply hold in our minds and hearts the many images presented to us by the ancient words of the Hebrew prophets.

From Jeremiah [33:14] we hear, *“The days are coming,”* says the Lord, *“when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah.”*

From Baruch [5:1] we hear, *“Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning ... put on the splendor of glory from God forever, wrapped in the cloak of justice from God.”*

We have so many wonderful images of God’s promise of justice and peace, especially in Isaiah.

“On that day, it will be said: “Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!”

“On that day the deaf shall hear ... the eyes of the blind shall see. The lowly will ever find joy ... and all who are alert to do evil will be cut off.”

“They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks ...”

“The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb ... there shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain.”

“Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication ... to save you.”

May we find comfort, courage, joy, and peace in these hopes and promises! Even more, may we remember and trust deeply in the truth of God’s love, because we have our own personal experiences of God’s grace and glory. As we have prayed for freedom, sought peace, needed hope, searched for understanding, or begged to be free to forgive, we have done as the ancients did: watched and waited for God to fulfill the promise of justice, the assurance of love, and the prophecy of peace.

For a brief period, we may have found ourselves in the presence of the wolf and there was no harm, but rather there was peace. We may have been gifted with deep trust in the midst of difficult problems, or we found within our hearts the strength to forgive despite criticism or judgment, rejection or misunderstandings, or we felt hope in the midst of ongoing struggles. These graced moments, these blessed instances of God’s presence, assure us, deep within our own reality and truth, that the Holy One of God is with us, and that Jesus comes to save us, even today, sometimes through others, often from within ourselves.

As Mary “pondered all these things in her heart,” may we recognize God’s coming into our hearts and minds and spirits! May we rejoice in this divine presence as we live in gratitude and celebrate the graciousness and faithfulness of our God of Providence.

Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP
Provincial Director