

Reflection for Tuesday December 1, 2020

A Season of Hope

Isaiah 51:1-12

¹*Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.*

*Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.*

²*Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.*

³*For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.*

⁴*Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.*

⁵*I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.*

⁶*Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.*

⁷*Listen to me, you who know righteousness,
you people who have my teaching in your hearts;
do not fear the reproach of others,
and do not be dismayed when they revile you.*

⁸*For the moth will eat them up like a garment,
and the worm will eat them like wool;
but my deliverance will be forever,
and my salvation to all generations.*

⁹*Awake, awake, put on strength,
O arm of the LORD!*

*Awake, as in days of old,
the generations of long ago!
Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces,
who pierced the dragon?
¹⁰Was it not you who dried up the sea,
the waters of the great deep;
who made the depths of the sea a way
for the redeemed to cross over?
¹¹So the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
¹²I, I am he who comforts you;
why then are you afraid of a mere mortal who must die,
a human being who fades like grass?*

I hope you are participating in the Pastor's Advent Challenge to intentionally share the gift of "Hope" this advent season. You can participate through social media or cards or conversations with family or friends to encourage them to have hope for the world. Hope is what we are focusing on this advent season as we wait and watch for the birth of our Savior.

Today's reflection comes from the 51st chapter of Isaiah, verses 1 through 12. Verse 4 speaks to my heart, "Listen to me, my people. Hear me, Israel, for my law will be proclaimed, and my justice will become a light to the nations." A light to the nations, so often we forget that it is our calling as Christians to show God's light and love through our actions. We are God's light in the world. In a world that is filled with depressing darkness, we are the light that shines through in God's name.

As you move through this week, contemplate how you can shine God's light and love in this dark world. How can we become beacons of light and hope for our neighbors? Each of us has different talents and gifts. Each of us have different situations. What can you do to bring light and hope?

One initiative that we are embarking on is to provide holiday cards to residents in nursing homes. Gather all your unused holiday cards and put a note of thinking of you or wishing you a wonderful holiday season and sign your first name. Drop them off with each card in its unaddressed envelope and put them in a zip lock bag and leave them at the Light of Christ back porch. I am confident that we all have unused cards, and we can take a little time to shine a light of hope to those who are socially isolated.

We can do little things to, thank an essential worker for continuing to do their job. Let someone in line in front of you. Call a loved one, send a card, share a laugh with someone. Today is Giving Tuesday, support your favorite charity. There are unlimited ways to shine a beacon of hope in this world.

My prayer is that together we will emerge from the pandemic, the racial discord, the political divide a stronger more compassionate nation. Share God's message of hope and love. Be the beacon of light in the darkness. After all, the birth of the Christ child is what we are watching and hoping. And it is Christ who brings the brightest light of all into our darkness.

In Peace,

Pastor Suzanne