

For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission Advent 2024



Reflection for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (Year C), 8 December, 2024

Readings

Ist Reading: Baruch 5:1-9
Jerusalem - God will show you splendour.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125
The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Show yourself sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 3:4, 6
*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.*

Gospel: Luke 3:1- 6
All people shall see the salvation of God.

Reflection

The Second Sunday of Advent resonates with the familiar and prophetic call of John the Baptist in the Gospel of Luke to prepare the way of the Lord. The value and necessity of listening has been named as one of the markers of synodality. It is also central to the journey of conversion that all undertake in choosing to follow the liberating way of Christ. How is God calling each of us to prepare to receive and share God's love and peace in this Jubilee year? Whose voices are we listening to, and what words of hope do we speak to ourselves, and into the lives of others?

The synodal way invites us, as Jesus did, to meet people where they are, as they are. We participate in making a way where sometimes, in people's woundedness, there might seem no way. Building reciprocal and respectful relationships, especially with those on the margins, prepares the way for mutual transformation. Every day a small and shining light of hope can be offered through faithful listening and accompaniment, building trust. God's saving Word, new every morning, is challenge, promise, and comfort as we walk humbly with people in our tears, and in our joys.

Reflection written by Fiona Dyball