

Second Sunday of Advent

"The Good of the World to Its Highest Capability"

Each Advent we are called to renew our Baptismal anointing to be prophets. Prophets listen so closely to God that they can speak for God. From Isaiah, we hear the call to live in God's Holy Spirit with wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, with awe and delight. We are called to solidarity with those oppressed and to work for justice. Then peace shall come, "the wolf shall lie down with the lamb . . ." and "there shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain."

Paul calls us to hope and living in harmony. John calls us to "produce good fruit as evidence" of our repentance, our metanoia, our transformation, our change of heart.

At St. Cronan the prophetic voice of Amanda Gorman echoes the call of Isaiah, Paul, and John. This week we focus on God's aim as described by Amanda "the good of the world to its highest capability." This describes the meaning of "the reign of God." As the prophets of old proclaim and Amanda echoes, this means those oppressed by poverty must receive justice for the reign of God to be embodied. We are not talking of just survival; we are talking about creating conditions for all - including the impoverished - to be their fullest selves. Amanda, as the prophets of old, reminds us that this is work that must be done now. We must not be overwhelmed by the immensity of the problems.

Perhaps this Advent we could each take a step to encourage the good of the world to its highest capability. For me, this means a commitment to deep listening, deep listening to my children, grandchildren, family, and friends as well as deep listening to the suffering voices of our community, the world's people, and our planet and how I am being called to respond. Deep listening breaks through the numbness Amanda describes. For my husband Tom, this means recognizing everyone is precious and treating them with deep respect. One day on his way to the clinic he said, "I'm off to work to spread compassion and create a little heaven on earth." For some of us it might mean that instead of participating in the consumerism our culture promotes during this season we put into practice the simple living wisdom we contemplated during Lent. Consider calling or writing your Congressperson urging them to expand the Child Tax Credit. There are many other ways you might discern. Through each of these compassionate steps we live our prophetic calling to incarnate God's vision of abundance for us all, speaking God's dream by our lives.

Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan