

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

Reflection

Reader: Christmas is intended to be a transforming event, not a lovely interlude in business as usual.

What we do in Advent in preparation for Christmas will be our means of getting ready for a new way of looking at life -- a new way of living.

The Prophet Malachi speaks of a messenger:

. . . one who will prepare the way of the Lord

. . . one who reminds us of the covenant of God

. . . one who refines and purifies us in faithfulness

How then do we prepare to be transformed by the coming of the Lord?

. . . by allowing the light of hope to awaken our spirits?

. . . by making room for the Lord to write the covenant on our hearts?

. . . by living in gratitude for what we receive in the Lord?

If we prepare ourselves by renewing our covenant with God, then we will be truly transformed as Christ comes again into our lives.

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Reader: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, says the Lord of hosts.

[Light First Advent Candle.]

People: The light of hope has awakened our spirits.

Reader: A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

People: Renew in us your covenant, O God, that we may be ready for the dawn of your salvation.

Reader: We light a second candle to bring light to every darkness, and to guide us in the way of peace.

[Light Second Advent Candle.]

People: With gratitude for your light, O God, we will prepare to welcome a new birth of your love