

POEMS of the PROPHET ISAIAH.....

TOUCHING THE DEEPEST LONGINGS OF OUR HEARTS



Week 1 - The 'Glorious Impossible' is Possible. Isaiah 2:1-5

The Prophet Isaiah writing in the eighth century BC focuses our minds on the holiness, majesty and righteousness of God, his compassion and saving mercy, the role of Israel and the city of Zion in his plans for the world. Within the book we discover prophecies of the redemptive role of God's suffering servant and as we too await and long for Christ's second coming we are reminded of the glorious final future God has in store for those who are his!

FIRST POEM OF THE PROPHET

Step 1: Read Isaiah 2:1-5, slowly, choosing either of the two versions printed below – or another if you prefer.

Version 1 – Isaiah 2:1-5 New Living Translation (NLT) The LORD's Future Reign

2 This is a vision that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

² In the last days, the mountain of the LORD's house
will be the highest of all—
the most important place on earth.

It will be raised above the other hills,
and people from all over the world will stream there to worship.

³ People from many nations will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of Jacob's God.

There he will teach us his ways,
and we will walk in his paths."

For the LORD's teaching will go out from Zion;

his word will go out from Jerusalem.
⁴ The LORD will mediate between nations
and will settle international disputes.
They will hammer their swords into plow shares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will no longer fight against nation,
nor train for war anymore

A Warning of Judgment

⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the LORD

Version 2 Isaiah 2:1-5 The Message (MSG)

Climb God's Mountain

2 ¹⁻⁵ The Message Isaiah got regarding Judah and Jerusalem:

There's a day coming
when the mountain of GOD's House
will be The Mountain—
solid, towering over all mountains.
All nations will river toward it,
people from all over set out for it.
They'll say, "Come,
let's climb GOD's Mountain,
go to the House of the God of Jacob.
He'll show us the way he works

so we can live the way we're made."
Zion's the source of the revelation.
GOD's Message comes from Jerusalem.
He'll settle things fairly between nations.
He'll make things right between many peoples.
They'll turn their swords into shovels,
their spears into hoes.
No more will nation fight nation;
they won't play war anymore.
Come, family of Jacob,
let's live in the light of GOD

The Prophet Isaiah spoke his words in pictures. Read the poem for a second time and picture his words with the eyes of your imagination

Step: 2 The poet wrote his words in pictures. Choose one version of the poem and read it a third time. As you read, picture his words with the eyes of our imagination.



Thoughts for discussion or journaling

The mountain of the Lord is a place where people gather to be Holy. People are drawn to a place that satisfies their longing or a thirst for meaning.

Using your imagination think about where the "Mountain of the Lord" is today?

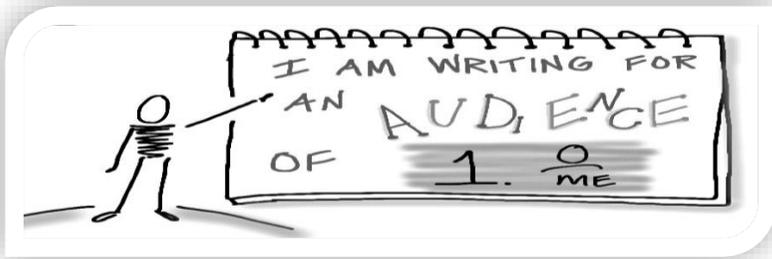
What are your thirsts and longings?

What dreams and visions do you see unfolding in our life or within our community of faith?

What do you feel God is saying about absurd transformations like swords into ploughshares? Hate to love? Impossible into possible? No into Yes?

How will you allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you in this Advent season?

Journaling space - write, draw, and doodle as you wish!



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PRAYER SUGGESTION THIS WEEK

The Breath Prayer is a tradition rooted in the experience of the Desert Fathers and Mothers of the 3rd Century. They fled the cities for a life of solitude in the desert. They wrote little, but quotes and stories give us a glimpse into their desert spirituality. From this we learn their desert practices. The Breath Prayer is a short verse, often drawn from scripture. It was repeated over and over. It was prayed as they sat outside their caves and huts weaving baskets from reeds. It was spoken on the breath as they went to sleep at night. Often they awoke with the prayer on their lips.

We can learn Breath prayers to carry in our heart and use as we go about our daily life and find ourselves waiting in lines or needing a soul pause. Our Breath Prayers end up carrying us!

Here is a **Breath Prayer** from the Isaiah poem.

On the in breath silently pray - **I will walk**

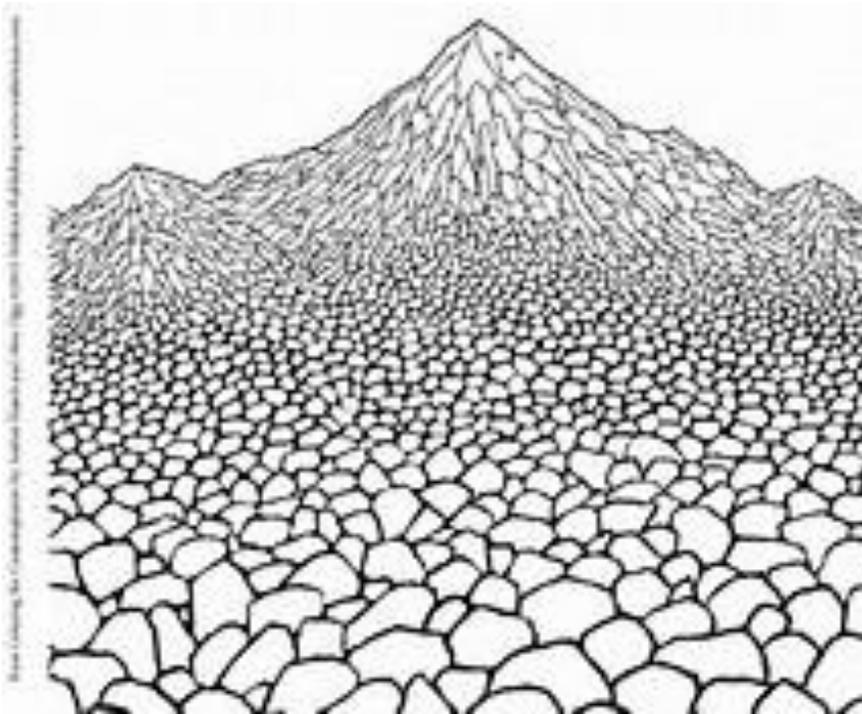
On the out breath silently pray - **in the light God gives.**

You are welcome to experiment and change the words to make them meaningful for you.

BLESSING PRAYER

This poem expresses the depths of human longing as people stream together to the Mountain. Take a moment now to think silently about a quality, hope or desire you need most this coming week. For example: **May I be blessed this day with beauty. And may beauty reach wherever it is needed.**

You may like to share your blessing thought as we close today?



Carol Soble Advent 2017

Adapted from The Prayer Bench www.theprayerbench.ca