

Reflection for December 13, 2015

Third Sunday of Advent



By Sister Anne Winschel, CDP

We move into the third week of Advent with an invitation to be part of a world waiting in hope. We hear an echo of “Gaudete or Rejoice” in the readings for today. The prophet, Zephaniah, proclaims “Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Sing joyfully Israel, for the Lord, your God, a mighty Savior, is living among you. With love, God will renew you and calm all your fears.”

What hopeful words for each of us today in the midst of our experienced world reality with all its inscrutable difficulties and tragedies: terrorism, wars, genocide, injustices, climate control, fractured relationships, diminishment.

Paul reaffirms the invitation that we are being offered transformation in new hope. “Rejoice in the Lord, always. I shall say it again: rejoice. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God.”

Our God of Providence is with us, reaffirming promises of presence and hope-filled energy to be images of Providence in our relationships and world injustices. As we continue our Advent journey, can we open our hearts to a trusting friendship with God that we are being offered in Jesus? Are we able to imagine God as taking delight in gladness with each of us as we strive to live the spirit of Jesus for the people of our day?

We wait with aching hearts for your new work yet to come. Help us to wait in joy, for we hope in you.

“Advent is a journey to Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn in by the God who became one of us.”—Pope Francis