

Reflection Tuesday Week 1 Advent 2020

If only we could dream like Isaiah? Or is it a dream? Isaiah reminds us that we have received all the gifts of the Spirit, reminds us of the importance of integrity, and proposes a new world which we would all want but find it hard to believe in. Jesus suggests that we need to simplify our vision of the world and our place within it to see the real possibilities of life and also to see that, often, Isaiah's dream comes true time and time again. Advent is a time to dream about the impossible in terms of love and goodness, compassion and kindness, generosity and gentleness, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Whenever the prophets speak about the *fear of the Lord*, they are talking about reverence and respect, about wonder and awe about recognition of God's love for us. This kind of fear of the Lord does not freeze us into immobility but frees us to act. It enables and empowers us to do great things like those suggested by Isaiah. We need the all-encompassing trust of a child and an openness to the future that believes all things are possible.

That first candle on the Advent Wreath is already beginning to look brighter.

With every passing day as sunlight disappears

The dusk descends and prayers ascend for strength to calm our fears.

Uncertain is this time when rancour seems to reign;

And illness leaves within its wake such sadness, grief, and pain.

Yet soon a star will shine. Look up! Keep watch and wait.

Then hear within a new-born's cry the love that conquers hate.

That love, whose light becomes the dawn of God's new day

When peace and justice will prevail and sorrows flee away.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would wear a mask to the bank and ask for money!!!

I dreamed I saw a colour I had never seen before. It was just a pigment of my imagination.

I dreamt about a horse last night. It turned out to be a night mare.