

Reflection Monday 4th Week Advent 19 December 2022

Today's O antiphon is: *"O stock of Jesse, who stand as a sign for the nations; before whom kings fall silent; whom the peoples acclaim – come, come to deliver us, do not delay any more."*

Although born into humble circumstances, Jesus is a descendant of the royal line of David. Isaiah foretold that: *"A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious."* This is the third of the seven ancient antiphons leading up to Christmas. Once again God keeps his promise of sending a Messiah, a Saviour to his people.

There are other stories in scripture that tell of God who brings forth a Saviour with divine intervention. A Saviour who would deliver the people of Israel from their oppressors. Today we hear about the birth of Samson and of Jesus' cousin John who would become the Baptist and herald Jesus active ministry. All these figures became the HOPE of the nation.

Greta Thunberg: *Right now, we are in desperate need of hope. But hope is not about pretending that everything will be fine. To me, hope is not something that is given to you, it is something you have to earn, to create. It cannot be gained passively, through standing by and waiting for someone else to do something. Hope is taking action.*

While **Helen Keller** wrote: *Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible.*