

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
December 8, 2019
Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11:1–10 † Romans 15:4–9 † Matthew 3:1–12



Reflection by: Sister Jeanne Goyette, OP

*There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain;
for the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God.*

Advent is a time *to verify our desire for God*. (Pope Francis, Dec. 3, 2017) As an Advent reflection and in the midst of our pre-Christmas busyness do we yearn for God? Is there a longing for Emmanuel here and now so that Earth will be filled with the knowledge of God? Will we take the time to yearn for God in solidarity with those who are mistreated and marginalized? With all creation that waits with eager longing for freedom from destruction? To long for God is also to long for the realities that reflect the mercy and faithfulness of God—the flourishing of justice and the fullness of peace. Come, thou long-desired One!

The longing for God is clearly expressed in the reading from Isaiah. We read of the hope-filled prediction of the budding forth of the One filled with the Spirit who will judge the poor with justice and decide aright for the land's afflicted. The longing for this coming resonates through the ages and continues in the hearts of people today. Come, thou long-desired One!

In the letter to the Romans we are encouraged to have hope. The God of faithfulness confirms the promises to the ancestors. All are welcomed and accepted, for the desire for God is within all, especially in the marginalized and exploited. Come, thou long-desired One!

John the Baptist announced the coming of the long-awaited One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Are we prepared and on fire to promote the reign of God? This Advent we are asked by the Dominican family to express our concern for the children, women, and indigenous people of India who are abused, exploited, and denied their human rights. Does our yearning for God call us to embrace their suffering and the desire for justice and peace? How will we respond?

To show solidarity with our sisters and brothers in India, go to <http://www.ecldf.net/2019/10/29/india-dominican-month-for-peace-2019/>

Come, thou long-desired One, come through us!