



December 7, 2025

The Second Sunday of Advent

"Produce good fruit as evidence of your change of heart."

Matthew 3:8



Dear Friends,

Here in the second week of Advent, Isaiah hands us a beautiful vision: wolves and lambs hanging out like they are old friends, a child leads wild animals, and a world governed by someone who actually ‘gets it’—someone who doesn’t judge by appearances, self-interest or power, but by justice, mercy, commitment to the poor and spirit-filled wisdom.

Maybe it’s me, but it’s hard not to notice how politically charged that vision is. It is not partisan but deeply political. Isaiah is not imagining a cozy Christmas card. He is describing a world reordered from the ground up. It is a world where the poor are not merely an afterthought. Where the rich and powerful don’t devour the weak. Where leaders don’t put on a performance but take time to listen. Where justice flowers in community not from fear but from kindness. This is the kind of world for which we all ache though it seems far away.

In the Gospel of Matthew, John the Baptizer appears out of the desert wild and unfiltered. His food and clothing link him with Samson, Samuel, and Elijah who represent a tradition of resistance to injustice and a revolutionary model for renewing society. John is not interested in “business as usual.” John challenges everyone but his sharpest critiques are aimed at the wealthy elites. He is not just focused on personal peccadillos rather he is looking for real change that shakes social systems and hearts alike.

“...Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths,” means, stop normalizing lies and corruption. Stop pretending that dishonesty and injustice are inevitable. Stop calling broken structures “just the way it is.” Stop remaining blind and silent to society’s sins. Advent is not just about passively waiting for some far-off future. It is actively preparing for the world to change. That kind of transformation calls for conversion, repentance, reform, social change, revolution and the radical transformation of the human condition. Jesus’ transfiguration and resurrection are symbols of the change for which we long; a world and humanity illuminated from within with the glory of God.

In The letter to the Romans, Paul reminds us that God’s plan is communal and universal. It is not tribal, never nationalistic, never about insiders vs. outsiders. Jews and Gentiles, us and them, all are invited, all are welcomed. All are part of God’s wide, mercy-shaped kingdom. This is a direct challenge to every political vision that narrows our compassion or draws small circles around those who “count.”

Our readings today are clear about the kind of world God wants; leaders who defend the poor; Systems that don’t crush the vulnerable; communities that choose peace over fear; politics shaped by truth not marketing; people whose hearts and vision stretch wider than their borders. During Advent God whispers to us, *“Yes, the world is broken. But don’t get used to that. I am doing something new.”* God uses us to prepare the way—in our hearts, in our communities, and even our political imaginations. Maybe Advent is asking us not to prepare for a holy day but to prepare for a holy world. We refuse to accept that the world can’t change.

Because according to Isaiah... it can. According to the Baptizer...it must. According to Christ...it will.

Peace,

Fr Ron

Esta carta está en español en el sitio web: www.anne.church