

2 advent 2022:

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path. I am afraid for much of my life I have looked on those words as a mission statement or even a job description. For too long I have labored under the belief that “prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path” was a warning for me to get my act together, to whip myself into shape, to make myself holy and good – somehow worthy of the presence of the savior. And if I didn’t, he just would not come.

For too long I have tried and for too long I have labored under the belief that I have failed. I have fallen short. Whenever Christmas was not a profound all enveloping spiritual event, it was because I had failed to prepare the way and make straight the path. When peace was not perfect, when reconciliation fell short, it was because I had not found the way to prepare and make straight. The grace of these later years is that I realize that this is not what Advent is calling me to do. The good news is that Jesus Christ the Son of God chooses to come into my world – my world as it is so that he might redeem it, restore it, renew it. That’s why he chose to be born in the most wretched and miserable circumstances. He wanted me to realize that he could slip comfortably and happily into my heart.

This advent I invite you to join me as I prepare the way of the lord into my life with all its thorns and warts and worries. I invite you to join me and make straight his path into hearts that are sometimes worn, and tired, and weary – hearts that have grown distrustful and cynical.

Our task this Advent is not to make ourselves perfect. It is not to make ourselves worthy. It is to stand humbly and honestly before

our God and say, Here I am. I can't do it myself. I've tried and it doesn't work. I need you.

Then we prepare ourselves for the Christmas Miracle - that to the lowly, to the broken, to the humble the Lord gladly comes – and it is in our hearts, this Christmas and every Christmas, that he continues to make his home.