



APC Advent Devotional – December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## **Preparation and Expectation**

### ***Today's Scripture: Isaiah 12:2-6 (NIV)***

Hope is something we need in all circumstances, but especially after so much anguish, fear, and uncertainty caused by the current pandemic situation and the consequent social isolation. In the year 2020 we all hope for a cure, for a vaccine, for improvements in the economy, for gatherings of friends for Christmas' markets, for New Year's Eve celebrations. To sum it all up, we all hope for a Savior to bring justice for all nations, to deliver us from all evil and to give us peace.

For centuries, the people of Israel hope for a Savior, for a Messiah. The prophet Isaiah of the Old Testament is well known for his message of messianic hope. Eight hundred years before the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, Isaiah announced the advent of the Messiah and prophesied the work of his life, his death, his resurrection, his promise of salvation and his second coming.

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah preaches on the importance of faithfulness to God and presents its clearest statement in chapter 12: "Surely God is my salvation, / I will trust and not be afraid" (Isaiah 12:2).

Isn't that a wonderful assurance for a year like 2020 and even more for the advent season? The verse invites us to trust in God's salvation while it promises that we will not be afraid.

Advent is a time of preparation and expectation to remember the first coming of Jesus Christ and to long for his second coming. It is a moment of remembrance, gratitude, joy, and reflection on God's wonderful promises, some of which have already been fulfilled and others which we still look forward to.

**Prayer:** Father, thank you for your living Word and for the fulfillment of the prophet Isaiah's announcement by giving us your son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Today's verses are full of gratitude, praise, and joy in the Lord's salvation. They invite us despite our current circumstances to sing with emotion and praise the glory of God. They command us to trust and to not be afraid. I will surely proclaim your name throughout the world, for you have done glorious things. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Katia Wilberg