

## **“What sort of persons ought you to be?”**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Is 40:1-5, 9-11

| 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Pt 3:8-14

| Gospel: Mk 1:1-8

**GROW:** For kids, the weeks before Christmas seem to drag on forever; for many adults, they zip by way too fast (“Second week of Advent, already? Oh my!”). Fortunately for us, God is outside of time – he does not experience the temporal moments as we do. “With the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day,” Peter writes. “The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard ‘delay,’ but he is patient with you.” Just as we have the Advent season to prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth, God gives us ample time to repent of our sins and grow in “holiness and devotion” as we prepare for his Second Coming. During this rich liturgical season of Advent, let us help prepare the way of the Lord through our words and actions.

*This week, we have our parish Advent Penance service, and two priests will be available for Confessions. If you need God’s mercy and forgiveness, make this week’s Penance Service part of your actionable ways to prepare your heart for the Lord.*

**GO:** Preparation. Preparedness. We use these words in Advent to mark our patient waiting for Jesus to come into our world. But while we are waiting, it is fitting to remember Peter’s question in the second reading: “What sort of persons ought you to be?” That is not simply an Advent question. And the answer is relevant to all days and times of life: Conduct yourselves with “holiness and devotion.” Right living and loving God and neighbor never go out of style. They are the answer to everything. Make wise choices. And, like John the Baptist, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” And perhaps one day, we can be transformed into the people God created us to be.

**WITNESS:** Today’s psalmist prays: “Lord, let us see your kindness.” This Advent, be conscientious about your everyday interactions with the people around you, making God’s kindness visible and known to them.

**--Father Anthony Ahamefula  
Parish Priest**