

DECEMBER 7, 2014

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ISAIAH 40:1-5, 9-11

PSALM 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

2 PETER 3:8-14

MARK 1:1-8

REFLECTION

What is God calling you to do? Do you know? John the Baptist was a bit of a wild man, what with the wild honey, his bug diet, and the weird clothes, but he had a very clear sense of what God wanted him to do. He was getting the world ready for Jesus. Each of us is called to do that same thing. John did it by preaching and inviting people to reform their lives. He did it by living a simple life and telling people that the world was about to change because Jesus was coming. We can do the same in lots of different ways. As the reading from Isaiah describes, we can offer comfort and kindness, we can fight injustice, and we can bring healing to a world in pain. We can live lives of service and love. We can help bring about the kingdom by being the people God calls us to be!

If you're into classical music you might be interested to know that the passage from Isaiah 40 heard at Mass today was used as the opening vocal movements in "Comfort ye my people" and "Ev'ry valley shall be exalted" in Handel's *Messiah*. The famous "Hallelujah Chorus" comes later in the same piece.

ACTION

Search online for an image of the Baptism of the Lord. Choose your three favorites portrayals of this Gospel story, and share them with at least one other person (two or three people, or your whole class or youth group would be better though). Ask them which image they like best and why.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What do you think God is calling you to do or be? How do you know?
- What do you know about the word discernment? Find a definition and describe how discernment might help you understand where God is calling you.