

CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELED - WE'RE JUST WAITING!

1st Week of Advent – Waiting in Hope

December 2, 2020

Text: Isaiah 40:1-5

Meditation: Comfort, O Comfort, my people! Our passage today calls for comforting the suffering people of God. The sin and rebelliousness of Israel had finally called down upon them the long-promised judgment of the Lord. Jerusalem and the Temple of God were destroyed, and the cream of the crop of the Jewish people were stripped and made to march some seven hundred miles to Babylon. They were kept in exile for decades and many had lost all hope. Isaiah here announces that God is coming for them. He knows they have had enough and will soon send them rescue. They are told to make a way in the wilderness, to raise up every valley and level every hill. The splendor of God is coming!

And how are we doing in the wilderness of this strange year we call 2020? COVID 19, racial unrest, riots in the streets, political hatred running crazy. Have we suffered enough? God is coming. Be faithful. Love him and serve all and Wait in Hope.

Question #1. Are you waiting in hope or in despair? What has challenged you to dig deeper into your faith this year? What will God do with all your problems when he comes to rescue you?

Question #2. Are you living out your testimony in hope and sharing it with others? Have you gone out of your way to smile, to greet, to share a bit of warmth and of hope with someone this week? If not, will you? Love the Lord and show it by loving your neighbors.

Prayer: Father God, we face many problems in this very frightening and saddening year. Help us to be your smiling, patient and hopeful face to others, no matter what the circumstances. Deliver us from chaos, disease and death, in the Name of your precious Son, our Lord, Jesus.