

Cell notes 06 December 2015 Theme: Advent, Wilderness, Peace, and Praise

Welcome

This is our second week in Advent (a season of waiting on God for the Kingdom of God). This week's liturgical theme is 'Peace'. Candle lighting prayer (adapted from a prayer by Katherine Hawker)

Dear Lord, As we journey down this Advent road, grant us the courage to make peace. Peace in our hearts, Peace in our homes, Peace in our communities. **Amen.**

Light the candle of peace.

In one of his sermons on World Peace Day Pope Benedict XVI once said; "If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation."

- How do you respond to this statement?

Worship

Luke 1: 68-79

- Song: '*Make me a channel of your peace...*' or any other song which has the theme of peace.
- Pray for the planet and for peace in our hearts, families, and community.

Word

Luke 3: 1-6

- How is it with your soul?
- What struck you about worship this past Sunday?
- John prepares the way for the Lord in the wilderness (Lk. 3: 4). Reflect on waiting for God in the wilderness during Advent and on waiting as a form of wilderness.
 - By using the word 'wilderness' Luke wants to evoke something in us. What images does the word evoke? What is the link between Advent and the Wilderness?
- John call himself 'a voice'. What does John tell us to do while waiting on God? (also see: The Desert Speaks poem attached).
- Is there a voice that speaks in your heart at the moment?
- Luke 1: 68-79 is Zechariah's song of praise also known as the "*Benedictus*". Has God given you any new 'song of praise'?
- What are the joys of waiting during Advent?

Works

- Rewrite in your own words the song of Zechariah in Luke 1: 68-79, make it applicable to your situation and the situation in our communities.
- Become part of The Advent Conspiracy to: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Love All, and Give More. Check it out here: <http://www.adventconspiracy.org/#four-tenets>

The desert Speaks

And what did you come out to see, John?
Just how long you could survive on locusts?

Listen to me: there's more to it than that.
Believe me, there is more to *you* than that.
You can survive without the scraps that feed your ego:

Title

Corner office

Six Figure income

Rooms jammed full of collectible stuff

And collectable people:

All the flimsy crutches from which you have constructed that reed shaken in the wind

You like to call

'identity'

Dare to believe in who you are

Just as you are

Redeemable and worth redeeming.

Come out to the desert to *be*:

Exchange your crowded emptiness

For one authentic landscape

Free of mirages

False prophets

False profits

And fraudulent 'necessities.

Come out into the desert with Me.

Taste the wild honey.

-- *Elizabeth Michael Boyle, O.P.*