

THE  
**GOD**  
WHO  
SPEAKS

... THROUGH THE  
**PROPHETS**



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## OPENING RESPONSES

Reader We gather in the name of the Father:

**All Whose Creative Word was spoken  
and all Creation came into being.**

Reader We gather in the name of the Son:

**All The Word of God made flesh  
who made his home among humans  
to help humans discover the divinity with them.**

Reader We gather in the name of the Holy Spirit

**All Who opens our ears to hear the Word of God;  
our minds to know and begin to understand it –  
and our hearts to feel the love of our God  
spoken to us by the God who speaks.**

## LISTENING TO THE WORD OF THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.  
O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!

*Isaiah 2: 1-5*

## REFLECTING TOGETHER

- What images did the Reading conjure up for us?
- What would the world look like if people did come 'to the mountain of the Lord' and follow God's ways?
- Why do people make weapons rather than tools for agriculture or otherwise ensuring the people of our world are fed and cared for?

## LISTENING WITH THE HEART

Time for personal reflection with the reading and the discussions.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Reader      As we close our meeting, let's call to mind some of the ways in which we have heard the God who speaks...

Something from his Word perhaps...  
a word or phrase that seemed particularly significant...  
Something that reassured us...  
something that challenged us...

Was there something someone said that opened up something new for you?

Or something in the silence?

Did a Prayer Station – or something you did – help you to understand the Reading a little more – with your heart as well as with your head?

How did God speak to you today?

Reader

God speaks his Word –  
from the dawn of Creation  
to our present day.

**All**      **May our ears and hearts be open  
to hear the Voice of the God who speaks.**

Reader

God speaks words of guidance –  
of ways of living that lead us to life.

**All**      **May we hear God's Word  
and use it to form the pattern of our lives.**

Reader

God speaks of the world as he desires it to be:  
a world in which the tools of life  
are more valued than weapons of war.

**All**      **May we play our part in the building of this Kingdom of peace –  
in our homes – our workplaces –  
in our churches and our communities.**

Reader

And may God bless us this night and all nights (*or today and all days*)

**All**      **The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

Reader

And until we meet again,  
may God hold us in the promise of his eternal peace.

**All**      **Amen.**