

DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY

THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

... THROUGH THE
PROPHETS



FOURTH 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

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7: 10-14

REFLECTING TOGETHER

- What images did the Reading conjure up for us?
- When do people in power pretend to be religious or holy – and why?
- Is it right to put the Lord to the test? Does it speak of trust or doubt?

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...

Perhaps there was a word or phrase in the Reading that seemed particularly significant...

Why might it have struck you today?

What does it invite you to take away?

Was there something someone said that seemed to come from God through them?

Was there something you received in the silence?

And now, let us pray together "The Angelus" – the prayer that celebrates the mystery of the Feast we are about to celebrate:

Reader The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

All And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

Reader Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

All "Be it done unto me according to your word".

Hail Mary...

Reader And the Word was made flesh:

All And dwelt amongst us.

Hail Mary...

Reader Let us pray,
**All Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord,
Your Grace into our hearts;
that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son,
was made known by the message of an angel,
may be brought by his passion and cross
to the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ, our Lord.
Amen**

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 his eternal love and mercy.
All Amen.

