

The Isaiah Poems

Isaiah 2:1-5 | Advent 2016

PARTICIPANT SHEET #1

Session 1: The 'Glorious Impossible' is Possible

ENTRY POINTS

By Janice MacLean, Host of the Prayer Bench

The mystics say the root longing of our soul is for God. God alone can satisfy the deepest longing of our heart. Our deepest desire is God's deepest desire for us.

This is what Isaiah knew and tried to picture in his beautiful image of people streaming to the Mountain of the Lord. The Mountain is wherever God is. All the people in Isaiah's vision turned their hearts to God. They are putting one foot after another, bringing their whole self: body, mind and spirit to where God is. When we are present to every moment, and when we are present to the depth of every longing, we meet God there.

The people are on the path *together*. They know there is more strength together than apart. They make space for every longing in their heart. They know swords can be hammered into gardening tools. They know fear can be shaped into hope. They know impossibilities can be nudged into likelihoods.

Isaiah's poem is such a rich image of healing and hope, especially in our complicated times! Deep down we know it is possible. And we don't laugh out loud when we hear Isaiah's words. (We really should laugh because it is absurd!) When we (personally or in community) open our whole self to God we know the "glorious impossible" is possible. We know when we fall in line with this stream of human company God is present in the depths and heights of the day.

BREATH PRAYER: I will walk / In the light God gives.

BLESSING

This poem expresses the depths of human longing as people stream together to the Mountain. Pray silently about a quality, hope or desire you need most.

May I be blessed this day with ____ *fill in the blank with your longing*_____.

And may _____ reach wherever it is needed.

For example: May I be blessed this day with *beauty*. And may *beauty* reach wherever it is needed.