

Advent calls us to look at the deeper truths of life. It calls us to see God at work even when everything looks bleak and hopeless. It calls us to see injustice and inequality behind the apparent wealth and ease of our society.

This is why we read the prophets in Advent. They were truth-tellers. Uncomfortable, awkward, at times offensive.

Read Isaiah 11.1-4

1 A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide by what his ears hear;

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;



Cristian Palmer

This Advent, we are called to see the world through God's eyes: in truth and in love. To see every person we meet as God sees them. Right now, in the run-up to Christmas, churches are opening their doors to those who are homeless and vulnerable. We see people as they truly are – made in the image of God. By offering a warm bed and a meal we say that we belong together as children of God. It's also about speaking the truth to the wider world, saying "This cannot be!" and calling for change.

This Advent let us ask God to open our eyes and heart to see truth in every area of our lives, and to see God in the face of all those we meet.

Archbishop Justin Welby and Rev Isabelle Hamley

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