

December 18, 2024 Movement Cafe

TOPIC - Tending to Advent; Preparing the Way

Scripture Texts

Isaiah 57: 14-15

And it will be said:

“Build up, build up, prepare the road!

Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people.”

For this is what the high and exalted One says—

he who lives forever, whose name is holy:

“I live in a high and holy place,

but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit,

to revive the spirit of the lowly

and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Luke 1: 76-78

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;

for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

to give his people the knowledge of salvation

through the forgiveness of their sins,

because of the tender mercy of our God,

by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight paths for him.

Every valley shall be filled in,

every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,

the rough ways smooth.

And all people will see God’s salvation.’

Adapted Hymn Lyrics for “God of Day and God of Darkness.”

#201 in Upper Room Worship Book, lyrics written by Marty Haugen, set to the familiar, haunting tune “Beach Spring;” There are five verses (with adaptations by Richenda Fairhurst):

God of dawning, God of evening, bring the sun to light our way;
As our troubles stretch and deepen, free us from our disarray,
All creation still is groaning, as we gather here to pray,
Light the path to peace and justice, hold us all within Love’s sway.

Still the nations flex their power, still the rich oppress the poor;
Still the earth is bruised and broken by the ones who still want more.
Come and wake us from our groaning, so our hearts cannot ignore
All your people lost and broken, all your children at our door.

Show us Christ in one another, make us servants strong and true;
Give us all your love of justice so we do what you would do.
Let us call all people holy, let us pledge our hearts anew,
Make us one with all the lowly, let us all be one in you.

You shall be the path that guides us, you the light that in us burns;
Shining deep within all people, yours the love that we must learn,
For our hearts shall wander restless ‘til they safe to you return;
Finding you in one another, love for each and all confirmed.

God of evening, God of nighttime, you our source and you our end;
Praise to you who love and nurture us as a father, mother, friend.
Grant us all a peaceful resting, let each mind and body mend,
So we rise refreshed tomorrow, hearts renewed to Kingdom tend.

Video Links:

[Verse 1](#)

[Verse 2](#)

[Verse 3](#)

[Verse 4](#)

[Verse 5](#)