

Monday, 7 December 2020 – Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

I always think of the hiking trails of the Weminuche Wilderness in Colorado or of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, the way they zig-zag along the terrain of hills and mountains, cutting an uneven course over peaks and through valleys, along rivers and in the middle of forests and fields. These paths, while beautiful and filled with amazing vistas, are by no means "straight and level"!

Isaiah, given the words to speak in the Spirit of God, goes to the people of God in a situation of exile (or very recent return from exile) and proclaims to them that "a voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough place a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'"

In short, after all the trials of life, and into a world that all too often feels troubling and overwhelming, the path to get to God shall become one of the easiest roads to travel; there will no longer be anything that stands as hindrance between God and humanity.

We are preparing, still, for that reality, though we recognize much of it has been accomplished in the arrival of Immanuel (literally "God-with-Us"), and in the arrival again of Immanuel here and now. We prepare ourselves to walk this path, made straight and level and even, and we help prepare it as we go so that others may likewise journey without difficulty or obstacle. Such is the season of Advent!

Prayer: Lord, may I walk the road to your presence with faithful feet, and help make the road that much easier for others to walk, as well, so that we would all gather before you, and see together your glory revealed. Amen.