

8th/9th December 2018: Second Sunday of Advent, Year C

*The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight'*

Reader: Loving God, in response to that inner voice calling me to prepare the way for your coming, we turn to you and offer you our prayer for our church, our community and ourselves.

For the Church, the people of God: *(pause)*
that we may see Your work in large and small events in our lives and be inspired to bring Your love to all. **Lord hear us**

For a reawakening of our hearts: *(pause)*
that we may embrace Your vision for wholeness, reconciliation and new beginnings for all the human family. **Lord hear us**

For all children: *(pause)*
that the hope that fills their hearts in this season may become firmly planted and sustain them throughout life's journey. **Lord hear us**

For all who are struggling at this time: *(pause)*
that You will fill in the valleys and make level the lives of all who struggle at this time, so that they may experience Your wholeness. **Lord hear us**

For peace in our world: *(pause)*
that You will remove from our hearts resentments and inability to forgive, free us from what blinds us to Your presence, and enable us to dismantle injustices and discrimination in our society. **Lord hear us**

Priest: For all who have died, particularly our family and friends who have died during this past year, especially that they may live in the light and peace of God's presence forever.

O God, you search me and you know me. Help me to know myself better; help me acknowledge and set aside the blocks to your coming.
You have indeed begun a good work in me and, in spite of my hesitations and resistance, I too want it to be brought to completion under your graceful care.
Amen.