

# *In the beginning was the Word...*

*An Advent & Christmas Course from the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney*



## Patience

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023



*Statue of the pregnant Virgin Mary, made of resin by Holyart (Holyart.co.uk)*

### **Matthew 11.7-9**

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone<sup>[a]</sup> dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet?<sup>[b]</sup> Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

*To reflect:*

Jesus asked the crowds, what then did you go out to see? In the same vein, I ask, what do you see in this image for our reflection today? I see a pregnant Virgin Mary. I see a patient Mary. There is no greater patience than that of Mary who waited patiently for nine solid months and navigated through the changes and chances of pregnancy (some good and some bad) to give birth to baby Jesus, and behold the Saviour of the world, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, whose dominion endures throughout all generations, who is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds (Psalm 145.13). Patience has twin sisters and brothers such as waiting, calmness, self-control, perseverance, resilience and hope. Patience is a valuable virtue that can impact positively in the various aspects of our life and faith journey. The season of Advent calls us to wait and hope, and therein lies patience.

### **Life is Patience** (A Poem by Julie Hebert, 2012)

To live how we want,  
And to do what we please.  
Can sometimes be tough,  
And not done with great ease.

Life works in many ways,  
Some good and some bad.  
Which stops us in our tracks,  
And makes us really mad.

We can't all get,  
What we want right away.  
And waiting is needed,  
To show us the way.

So learn the lesson now,  
That some never learn.  
Waiting patiently,  
Will allow you your turn.

### **To Listen**

Hymn – *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* Translated by John M. Neale (1851) one version is by Choir of the Cathedral Church of the Advent  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/0lzvEZI2kjaleqecpwzif6?si=b8defac819e24489>

Hymn – *Be Still, My Soul; the Lord is on thy side.* by Kathrina von Schlegel and translated by Jane Borthwick (1855), one version is by the Choir of Paisley Abbey  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/0h0mb6ijNxYUAFKXDDgKw5?si=04d134e07e2144af>

*The word for each day (3-25 December is taken from Advent Word 2023 #adventword).*

*...and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*