

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

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



## Repair

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023



Edouard Vuillard *La Ravandense* (1891, Huile sur carton) Legs Mme Thadée Natanson, 1953. Musée d'Orsay Paris.

### **Scripture: Jeremiah 23: 5-8**

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when it shall no longer be said, ‘As the Lord lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of Egypt’, <sup>8</sup> but ‘As the Lord lives who brought out and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the land of the north and out of all the lands where he had driven them.’ Then they shall live in their own land.

*To reflect:*

Today’s word for reflection – repair comes from Sunday’s Isaiah reading “They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.” It speaks of things being restored, being returned to being built up after a long time of devastation. Repaired, restored, returned. This is a theme in today’s reading from Jeremiah. This reading speaks of righteousness and justice being restored and people restored, repaired, returned to their land they had been exiled from.

What are the things you wish to see repaired and restored this Advent?

*Today’s Antiphon*

O Adonai O Prince of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush, and delivered to him the law on Sinai: Come, deliver us with outstretched arm.

***O Adonai* by Malcolm Guite**

Unsayable, you chose to speak one tongue,  
Unseeable, you gave yourself away,  
The Adonai, the Tetragramaton  
Grew by a wayside in the light of day.  
O you who dared to be a tribal God,  
To own a language, people and a place,  
Who chose to be exploited and betrayed,  
If so you might be met with face to face,  
Come to us here, who would not find you there,  
Who chose to know the skin and not the pith,  
Who heard no more than thunder in the air,  
Who marked the mere events and not the myth.  
Touch the bare branches of our unbelief  
And blaze again like fire in every leaf.

*To listen*

*O Adonai* by Roderick Williams, one version is performed by the Choirs of Pembroke College, Cambridge

<https://open.spotify.com/track/7KCIInw1PMfXkZU3uQJRmP8?si=8e8d3fd8e35848d9>

*Build My Life* by Housefires

<https://open.spotify.com/track/0QatL1szZzMTAfZoJKWo0s?si=49f9a4a1347d4abf>

*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.*