



Gentleness

Monday 16th December



CM



*Feather Star from the National Museum of Natural History, the Smithsonian
Invertebrate Zoology from Oceania Region (NZ, Australia, Samoa, Fiji, Micronesia, Melanesia)*

Scripture: Psalm 25.3-8

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

To reflect

In yesterday's (Third Sunday of Advent) reading from Philippians 4.5 we were told 'Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near' After having been told to rejoice. Gentleness is an aspect of Jesus' character. Other translation options for 'gentleness' "magnanimity" (NEB) and "consideration for others" (REB), these are words that speak to the communal and compassionate vocation of Christian communities. The RSV uses the term 'Let all men know your forbearance', connecting gentleness and patience, but this is patience not inactivity. We are told that the Lord is near, and this week as we edge closer to the end of Advent the Lord is near indeed.

How might you be challenged to act with gentleness, magnanimity and consideration for others, with patience this Advent Season?

Be Patient by Annie Smith

Be patient, be patient, no longer despairing,
Look upward, be hopeful, encourage your heart;
Tho' bitter the cup that your soul has been sharing,
Let thoughts of self pity now quickly depart.
He will not tarry, and leave us here grieving,
Soon He will come, all His children receiving.
O wait now! the promise of glory, believing:
Soon the King in His beauty for us shall appear.

Be patient, be patient, the light shining o'er you,
Will guide thro' the darkness that covers the way;
The Saviour has trod the rough pathway before you,
Let not earth's enchantments allure you astray.
Upward to God be the heart's adoration,
See from Him flowing pure streams of salvation.
Redemption is nearing! O, seek preparation!
Soon the King in His beauty for us will appear.

Be patient, be patient, a pilgrim and stranger,
Tho' foes may assail, and the scoffers deride.
Tho' toil and affliction, temptation and danger,
The saints must be purified, made white and tried.
Take now the spirit of meekness adorning,
Faithfully carry the last notes of warning.
Be watchful, and look for the dawn of that morning,
When the King in His beauty for us shall appear.

Be patient, be patient, a little while longer,
And Jesus the kingdom to us will restore.
Be cheerful, enduring, your faith growing stronger,
Till trials are passed, and your conflicts are o'er.
Wait till the Lord all His saints will deliver,
Love, peace and joy, will surround them forever;
They're safe in that country, where tears will come never,
With the King in His beauty they'll reign evermore.

From Home Here, and Home in Heaven (1855)

To Listen (these and other suggestions can be found on a Spotify playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0F5bU2sf4OiOrQY3q78Rf2?si=a99cbbf61e7d4587>)

- 'Advent Song' by The Porter's Gate, Jonathan Ogden and Page CXVI.
- 'Softly and Tenderly' performed by Audrey Assad.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.