

## Advent 2010

### Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent



Everything is different now. The language is softer and the perspective is deeper. The old dogmas are flawed and even justice itself has a new measurement. The survival of the fittest is no longer the natural order as the power struggle of Eden has nothing left to play for, and enmity has lost its purpose.

In Isaiah's time as in our time a sense of desperation hovered in the land and only the reputation of a just and loving God would cause the world to listen again. The prophet recognised that the very stumps of the days of violence would provide the soil of restoration and the shattered remnants of destructive powers would tell their stories. Restoration, as Isaiah saw it, was a question of equity. Both the political and natural worlds would have to yield to the rights of the powerless. A reordering of minds and hearts would provide a new interpretation of structure and status and strength. The normal would be abnormal and the monuments would cease to remember. As the present order reached its demise the restoration of a just order would be fulfilled.

The voice is crying in the wilderness, telling it like it is!

The stump brings us back to the beginning to start the new foundation where the canon of community is coded in the language of liberation, where harmony is in the opened space and where the wolf and the lamb live and let live. This is the place of God's presence where stillness is the absence of fear and where peace is the experience of tenderness. As the wolf and the lamb lie down together in you, in me, in all creation we see that the new beginning is entrusted with justice, integrity and faithfulness that all creation may be filled with the fullness of God as the waters cover the seas.