



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

ISAIAH 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Is hope an act of courage? Or of foolishness? Peace is declared but not present. The city is in ruins. Is it courage or foolishness to trust in—to act on—the word of those who claim to have in plain sight what we have yet to see? To sing for joy for a future that has not arrived, that seems beyond hope, for salvation that is always just around the corner? We have heard it before.

Advent is not a season for the faint of heart. It is a time for courage, a season of hope. It may seem foolish to some. And yet, we sing. Boldly, courageously from the ruins of our cities and our lives, clinging to the vision of that day when all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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