

Monday 30th November

Iain Henderson

*“On your far hills, long cold and gray,
has dawned the everlasting day.”*

Readings

Psalm 122

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 5:8-11

Today is St Andrew's Day. Andrew, often referred to as the first disciple to be called, transformed from being a 'Fisherman' into a 'Fisher of men' and many times seen as the person who quietly brought people to Jesus.

Advent, a season of transformation as well as anticipation. The Isaiah reading is full of familiar phrases and images of transformation, "He will...settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." This was written against a backdrop of insecurity, the people of Judah had been living under the very real threat of invasion, they feared they were losing control over their land and to Judeans, to be truly safe was to have your own bit of land to grow crops. Isaiah speaks of hope – but there is a choice to be made which culminates in this reading with, "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord."

These past months have seen insecurities for many, but we also see signs of transformation, new cooperation between countries out of necessity, a re-evaluation of what is important in life, large numbers tuning in to online worship. May we, like Andrew, show to others that transformation of a baby born in hardship but bringing hope and salvation to the world. Let us 'walk in the light of the Lord' and rejoice with the words of the hymn.



The photo is the statue outside the United Nations building in New York, a gift of the Soviet Union to the United Nations. The bronze statue, created by the Soviet sculptor Evgeniy Vuchetich, was installed in the north garden area of the United Nations in 1959.

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Hills of the north, rejoice;

river and mountain spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing;
though absent long, your Lord is nigh;
he judgment brings and victory.

Isles of the southern seas,
deep in your coral caves
pent be each warring breeze,
lulled be your restless waves:
he comes to reign with boundless sway,
and makes your wastes his great highway.

Lands of the East, awake,
soon shall your sons be free;
the sleep of ages break,
and rise to liberty.
On your far hills, long cold and gray,
has dawned the everlasting day.

Shores of the utmost West,
ye that have waited long,
unvisited, unblessed,
break forth to swelling song;
high raise the note, that Jesus died,
yet lives and reigns, the Crucified.

Shout, while ye journey home;
songs be in every mouth;
lo, from the North we come,
from East, and West, and South.
city of God, the bond are free,
we come to live and reign in thee!

Charles E Oakley—1870

Prayer

Hills of the North rejoice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufsfurSpPmM>



We pray for those who seek
to bring the hope of God's
kingdom to
others in our community,
our churches and the world.



Wirral Methodist Churches
New Song Wirral



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