

Third Week of Advent

Thursday 17 December 2020

Reflection 19 – Day 19

A beautiful exchange (Isaiah 61:1-4)

I love reading Isaiah 61. It is one of my favourite passages, as I imagine it may be for you too. What I love most as my eyes scan the beautiful words in this passage, is how, once again, we are reminded of the kind-hearted nature of God within His majesty and power. His almighty power, enabling Him to offer us such beautiful exchanges, I can almost envisage His loving hands reaching out:

- to the broken-hearted, inviting them to allow Him to take that pain, binding it and healing it up;
- to those of us in captivity, perhaps in mind, body or spirit, to say 'let me release you my child';
- to those mourning, to envelop them with His arms of comfort as they begin to allow Him to carry the pain of deep loss, as He places His crown of beauty on their heads, pouring out the oil of joy over you.

I imagine him saying: 'Let me take that despair and give you this garment of praise.' And after all this He calls us all 'Oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendour'. And here we see how our brokenness does not disqualify us, but rather qualifies us, in our allowing Him to move in. By accepting his offer of a beautiful exchange, letting Him in on the pain, we can be His for the planting, and bear the display of His glory.

Lord God,

My you bind up the broken-hearted, may you release those experiencing a form of captivity, may you comfort those who mourn, and help me to do the same.

In your precious name,

Amen.