

Fourth Week of Advent

Monday 21 December 2020

Reflection 23 – Day 23

'I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations'

(Psalm 89:4 NIV)

'But Dad/Mum, you promised!' says the child staring up at his parent with those fond, innocent-looking eyes. Any parent knows well how seriously a child, let alone an adult, takes a promise. And rightly so, one might say. A promise is a commitment to deliver against one's word, and when that promise is broken, trust goes with it. And trust is a vital stabiliser in life, it is like a buoyancy aid that helps us to walk life well. We all need someone that we can depend upon. And this Christmas, we need that someone more than ever, to utter words of assurance that all will be well, that the storm will end and that we will be okay.

Israel's journey has involved many storms. As God's children, they looked to God more than ever in times of trouble. When the ground felt unstable, they depended upon his promises to stabilise them and give them hope. They relied upon his words of assurance and promises of what would come. The psalmist sings in Psalm 89 a song of praise, celebrating God's faithfulness, affirming that God never waivers, that he never has and never will break a promise. He also reminds us that God made a promise to bless the line of King David through all generations. At Christmastime, we recall how this promise is fulfilled through the life of Jesus. Zechariah, the priest gives praise to this effect on hearing of Mary's pregnancy and his own wife's, Elizabeth: *"Praise be to the Lord...He has raised up a horn of salvation for us (Jesus) in the house of his servant David"* (Luke 1:68:70 – brackets added).

What are the promises that you will hold onto this Christmastime?

Lord God,

We thank you that you are there in the good times and the hard times. We praise you that your love never waivers. In the midst of all the chaos and uncertainty, please draw near to us and remind us of your truth. Please fill us afresh with your Spirit and lift our gaze towards you and those around us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.