

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER: **DECEMBER 1, 2022**  
**ADVENT I + Hark! + Listen! God is Faithful**

**SCRIPTURE**

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:3b-4, 5-6, 17-19

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me look upon injustice? Why do you permit tyranny? Destruction and violence are all around me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails. The corrupt triumph over the righteous, and justice is perverted once again.

Look at the nations and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For a work is being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told. For I am rousing the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous nation, who march through the breadth of the earth to seize dwellings not their own. Dread and fearsome are they. They justify their actions with their might. They make up their own rules.

I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart. I will keep watch to see what God will say to me, what God will answer concerning my complaint.

Then the Lord answered me and said: write the vision, make it legible on tablets so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it is slow in coming, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not fail. Look! Those whose hearts are corrupt, they will faint with exhaustion, but those who steadfastly uphold justice will live.

Divine glory covers the heavens, and the earth is filled with God’s praise. A brilliant light with rays flashing forth, concealing the very power of God. When God stands, the earth quakes. When God looks down, the nations panic. The eternal mountains crumble, and the ancient hills collapse along God’s age-old pathways.

Though the fig tree does not blossom and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will exult in the God of my salvation. My sovereign God is my strength; who makes my feet as agile as a deer’s, and teaches me to walk on high places.

**SOLO** - Time for quiet and reflection using the questions below.

### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. *What do you wish was different about the world? About your life?*
2. *Do you have frustration, anger or confusion with God? What caused it?*
3. *How might God be working in your complaints, or in your heart and mind?*

### **PRAYER STATION and CANDLE-LIGHTING**

*After the soloist concludes, we invite you to participate in a prayer station. Lament is a form of prayer that occurs all throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, where, like Habakkuk, we share with God all our unedited anger, doubt, sadness, confusion, frustration, and complaints. In lament, we are real, and that honesty opens our hearts to be healed.*

*The “complaint card” you have been given is an opportunity to be honest with God. Are you angry? Confused? Doubting? What do you wish God would do? What do you wish was different? Be real! Once you have written your complaint, you may drop it in the complaint box. God is an excellent listener and will not reject our prayers.*

*Then, light a candle. Kneel or bow before God with your prayer and your frustrations: your heart freshly open to listen and understand how God is still working, even now.*

### **PRAYER\***

Gathering our many prayers into one, let us pray together.

**God of starlight, every part of us is trying to seek you:  
our bodies that carried us into this space, our heads bowed in prayer,  
our hearts that keep whispering, “There is more than just this.”  
We are seeking you. So meet us halfway.  
Find us in the maze. Quiet the rest of the world.  
Open the door to us. Speak words of hope. Amen.**

The light shines in the darkness.

**And the darkness has not overcome it.**

*Continue worship with The Annunciation on page 8 of the songbook.*

\* Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).