



Second Sunday of Advent-December 7, 2025

Theme:

Peace: The Light that Rests at the Heart of All Struggle

As we enter the second week of Advent, we step deeper into a season of peace and growing light.

“Quietly, we are invited to light the second candle of Advent, pausing for a few minutes to breathe and open our hearts to our God of peace, whose light continues to rise like dawn even in our restless world.”

Hymn:

Prepare the Way of the Lord <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04CakHTcHQI>

//Prepare the Way of the Lord//

And all people will see
the salvation of our God.

Readings

Isaiah 11:1-2,6,9

“A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom...
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.”



Romans 15:4-5,13

“Whatever was written was for our instruction, so that by endurance and encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope...
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.”

Matthew 3:1-3,11

“John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord...’
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Reflection

Isaiah speaks to a people who feel cut down, reduced to a stump. Yet it is precisely from that stump—dry, forgotten, seemingly lifeless—that God promises new life and “fullness of peace forever.” (Ps 72) This is the mystery of Advent peace: God brings calm where we fear endings and restores wholeness where we see only losses.

For us RNDM sisters, this image resonates deeply with our missionary journey. While we hold the theme “RNDM Mission, Presence of Hope,” we recognize that our hope is always expressed through the quiet, persistent work of peace. We serve in places where poverty, injustice and conflict can feel overwhelming. We accompany people—especially children, youth and women—whose lives appear cut down by trauma, displacement or exclusion. At times, our own energy, community life or mission resources may feel stretched or reduced to a stump. Yet, Advent reminds us: God’s tender shoots of peace appear in hidden,

quiet, vulnerable places. Where we experience limitation, God prepares new beginnings of reconciliation, healing and gentle strength.

St. Paul reminds us that hope is not optimism or vague positivity; it is shaped in us through the Scriptures, endurance, community, and the Spirit. In the same way, the peace we seek and embody is not simply the absence of conflict, but the steady presence of God who holds us together. As RNDMs, the Word continues to ground our mission, encouraging us to stand with the poor and marginalized, to remain faithful, and to trust God's promise of peace even when results are unseen.

John the Baptist's cry becomes a call to active peace. His message summons us not to passive waiting but to prophetic presence—challenging oppression, living simply, and pointing always to Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Embodying the Advent promise, we RNDMs become a living presence of peace for God's people.

Reflection Questions

1. Can I recognize signs of new growth that God may already be nurturing where I feel like "the stump" in my life?
2. What "paths" in my heart need preparing? Are there fears, resentments, or distractions that hinder my openness to Christ?
3. How is God inviting me to be a presence of hope and peace in my mission context?
4. As an RNDM community, how can we collectively embody hope and peace?

Closing Prayer

God of Hope and Peace, You who bring life from the stump and promise from the barren branch, renew in us the spirit of Advent. Plant Your hope and peace deep within the soil of our hearts. Grant us the grace to see Your presence in the ordinary, to perceive your stirring in places of suffering, to trust your promise in moments of uncertainty. Bless our RNDM communities with unity, joy and courage. Fill us with the Spirit of wisdom and compassion that we may be women who radiate hope and peace to our neighbors. May our presence be like a gentle shoot, a sign that Your kingdom is near. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Jesus, Hope of the World <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmHPrg8d2P4>

Jesus, Hope of the World

Jesus, light in our darkness

Here we await you,

O Master Divine.

Here we receive you in bread and in wine.

Jesus, hope of the world.

1. Come to us, O Son of God
Come to us, O Son of Man
Come son of God, Come, Son of Man
Shepherd your people in love.

2. Come to us, O promised King.
Come to us, O promised peace.
Come promised King, come promised peace.
Come and be Lord of our hearts.
3. Come to us, O rising Sun.
Come to us, O endless light.
Come, rising Sun, Come endless light.
Shatter the darkness of death.