

Preparing the Way with Water to Thrive

Second Sunday of Advent – “Be A Voice!”

Luke 3:3-6



Litany

L: On the second Sunday of Advent, we light two candles, reminding each of us to be a voice.

C: May we be advocates for the voiceless in our world.

L: Like John the Baptist, who proclaimed the words of Isaiah to make a way for Jesus’ teachings, with our voices we can move mountains and change paths.

C: May our voices be used to lift others up and not tear them down. May we shed light instead of creating darkness.

L: Help us to listen carefully to others, especially those whose voices go unheard, that when we do speak up it may be with wisdom, understanding and grace. In Jesus’ name we pray.

C: Amen.

Meditation

How do you use your voice? Throughout each day we choose whether to use our voice to uplift others or put others down. We choose whether to open our mouths or keep them shut. We can use our voices to complain, to incriminate, to deceive. We use them to compliment, to encourage, to inspire.

In rural Africa, there are many voices that are rarely heard by you or me. There is little infrastructure in these areas – few roads, and no electricity. Water and wastewater treatment are rarely available, and water is not pumped directly into homes. In fact, many families have to collect water from contaminated ponds and streams. Imagine how voiceless it would feel to *know* that clean water is the key to becoming a safe and healthy community, yet not being able to afford it.

The good news is, many people across the world are starting to listen to the voices coming out of rural Africa. They are starting to add their own voices, using them to address the need for this most basic resource. Together, our voices can push for change and speak out against injustice. How will we raise our voices this Advent season to be beacons of hope in a dark world?

Prayer

God of Justice, as we prepare the way for Your Son, let us be mindful that he comes not with glory and fanfare, but to the humblest of places, a manger. During the season of Advent, may we seek out ways to be a voice for those in our world who face poverty, oppression and injustice, just as Jesus did in his life on earth. In Jesus’ name we pray, **Amen.**