

HOPING ~ God's Word calls us to hope. To hope is not to lose touch with reality but to trust that what seems impossible may be possible!

Read the text a third time. Then reflect and share on some of the following:

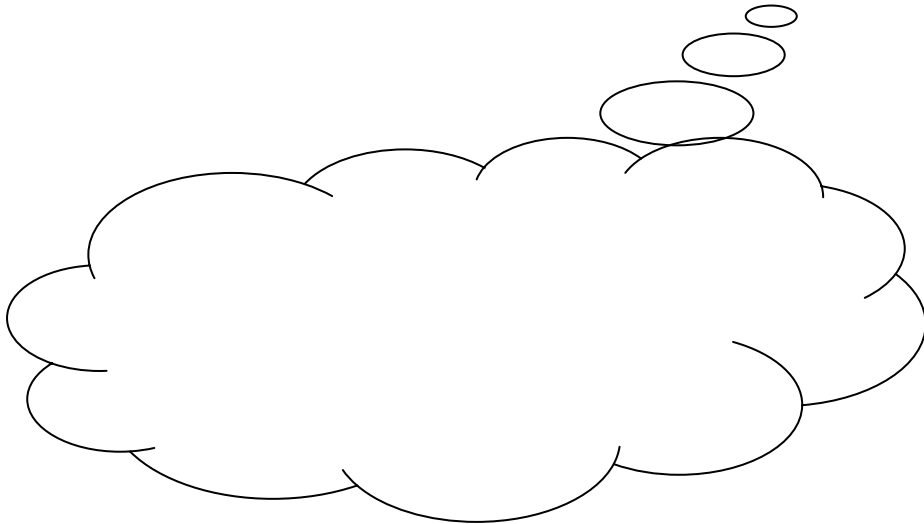


1. (a) This text from Isaiah is built upon confidence in God, his hope. Having looked at the world in light of Isaiah, what shoots of hope do you see around you?

(b) What do you want to say to the Lord about these hopes?

2. (a) Who inspires hope in you in this world of ours? (b) What do you want to say to the Lord about these people?

3. (a) What are your hopes in these closing weeks of 2014? (b) What do you want to say to the Lord about these hopes?



Hearing Happening Hoping

**Keeping AWAKE with
Scripture this Advent**

Week 3 ~ Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11



Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD God has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of justice, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause justice and praise to spring up before all the nations.

HEARING

Read the text 2-3 times, then reflect and share on some of the following:

1. What words resonate with you?
2. What puzzles you? What disturbs you?
3. Why does God anoint this person?
4. How does this person respond to this anointing?



5. On whose side is God in this passage?
6. What does God want in this passage?

HAPPENING ~ Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.

This Scripture happens in our own lives and in the world around us

1. Who are the oppressed today, in Ireland and elsewhere?
2. Who is bringing good news to the oppressed today?
3. What breaks people's hearts today?
4. Who binds up the broken-hearted?
5. Where do we see the earth bringing forth its shoots, even when people try to stop it?
6. What imprisons people in our world today?
7. Who liberates the prisoners?

