

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020  
"HAVE A LITTLE FAITH PART 2"  
By Rev. Joanna Dietz

*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.*

*A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ~ Isaiah 40:1-5 (NRSV)*

I walked into King's Chapel in Cambridge in hushed awe. The ceilings are high, the artwork intricate, delicate, perfect. The wood is polished to a satiny gleam, worn by thousands of fingers that have brushed against its comforting surface. We expect to meet God in a place like this.

But Isaiah is saying something completely different. "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.'" We think of God as pure, clean, untouchable. God doesn't enter into the barren places of filth, dirt, grime. God stays on the clear path and it wouldn't even be possible to come close to God if there were even a speck of dust on us...right?

But no! God enters the wilderness – the place of chaos and the unknown. God enters the homes of those who have lost loved ones to violence. God enters those places where pain is present.

Too often we think we have fallen too far away from God to be loved. We are unworthy, dirty, impure. God could never want to be there for us in this state! Sometimes, we are so ashamed that we hide our dirt and pretend it isn't there.

But God's cleanness goes before God. The messenger cries out to prepare the way of the Lord. Advent is a season of looking under the couches and clutter and cleaning it all out to prepare the way of the Lord.

Where is your dirt hiding? What do you need to do to prepare the wilderness in your own spirit and be ready to be washed clean through the brightness of God?

Prayer: Lord, help us to look deeply into our own chaotic lives and find the places that need to be cleansed by you so we may be washed clean and we may be ready to receive you. Amen.

*Thought for the Day: What heaviness sits on your heart and needs to be wiped clean by God?*