

Monday of Holy Week – 3/17

"Thus says the Lord: 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him he will bring forth justice to the nations.'" (Isaiah 42:1)

When we read this passage from Isaiah we immediately think of Jesus and rightly so because Isaiah's words prophetically point to Jesus as the one in whom the Lord delights. Yet if we focus on the historical Jesus of two thousand years ago we miss the current fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy which is unfolding today. If we see only the Jesus of scripture who can delight His Father then we will never know how delighted God is in us.

Those of us who live out our baptismal commitment are the servants of God. God delights in us and wants to uphold us. We are God's chosen and the Spirit of Love is upon us. In the waters of renewal we put on Christ and we become Spirit for the world today. This is no joke nor just a nice idea. This is truth! We are Christ in the world today and so God delights in us.

The prophecies of Isaiah continue to be fulfilled by those who believe that they are called to be members of the body of Christ. The advocates for the poor are delightful in God's eyes. Those who seek cures for AIDS and other dread diseases are God's chosen ones. Those who stand up against the powerful nations of the world and call them to end wars are the ones who are bringing God's justice forth. And the Spirit of God rests upon those who challenge us to see the deep connections between the living earth and humanity.

The words of Isaiah are not limited by color of face or educational background or any other unimportant fact. We all can potentially fulfill this prophecy because we all offer the face of Christ to the world.

Today stand before a mirror and as you look at yourself read the words of the prophet Isaiah. Ask for the grace to realize that these words are meant for you. If you have to say the words several times before the truth begins to sink in, that is all right because it is important. The more of us who come to believe that we are meant to be the delight of God, the more the world will be transformed.

Reflection Questions

- 1. In what ways do I bring God delight?*
- 2. As God's chosen, what am I being called to do?*

Prayer: Jesus I know that You were the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies. Help me to realize that I too fulfill his words when I live as You did. Amen.