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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

December 5, 2010 - Advent 2

Psalm 72:1-8 (The Message)

Give the gift of wise rule to the king, O God, the gift of just rule to the crown prince. May he judge your people rightly, be honourable to your meek and lowly. Let the mountains give exuberant witness; shape the hills with the contours of right living. Please stand up for the poor, help the children of the needy, come down hard on the cruel tyrants. Outlast the sun, outlive the moon—age after age after age. Be rainfall on cut grass, earth-refreshing rain showers. Let righteousness burst into blossom and peace abound until the moon fades to nothing. Rule from sea to sea, from the River to the Rim. Blessed God, Israel's God, the one and only wonder-working God! Blessed always his blazing glory! All earth brims with his glory.

Romans 15:3-13 (The Message)

That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled," is the way Scripture puts it. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we'll be a choir—not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus! So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it.

Solomon's prayer in Psalm 72 is fully answered in the life of Jesus as recorded in Romans. Then Paul goes on to suggest that is now our turn in following God's plan and following Jesus' example to *"get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all."* As we celebrate in anticipation of Christmas let us at the same time try to live out this calling. Based on love and forgiveness, let us renew our relationship with God and with one another including those we may have 'been at odds with' this year. This will make Advent truly a time of preparation for that most joyous welcoming of the Christ-child this Christmas.

The directions for us are the same as Solomon's prayer to God. Be honourable, give exuberant witness, stand up for the poor, be rainfall on cut grass.

"Then we'll be a choir—not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus! So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it."

"Blessed God, Israel's God, the one and only wonder-working God! Blessed always his blazing glory! All earth brims with his glory."

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin