

IN EXCELSIS DEO

ADVENT 2024

Wednesday, December 4

Read: Isaiah 26:7-10

When reading our bible, we always should remember that the people in that period had to deal with many problems unfamiliar to us. For example, in the Old Testament period, traveling across country was a very difficult problem. We can get into our cars and travel comfortably hundreds of miles away in a matter of hours. Those ancient people had to walk or ride an animal through places we would consider to be a wilderness. For them to have a clear, level, and unobstructed path to travel was rare. For the writer of Isaiah to say that “the way of the righteous was smooth” would resonate with his readers in ways with which we simply cannot identify.

Still, we get the message. The lives of the righteous are not free from problems and challenges, but they are able to face them with a faith and trust that God is always with them to guide and comfort. There is a longing in their hearts night and day to sense God’s presence and know His way.

Even though the wicked are shown the same grace, they choose their way and have none of God’s assurance of a “smooth” path. Their paths are through a spiritual wilderness.

Our prayers today should include gratitude for God’s presence and His path. They should include our requests for His help to walk in righteousness. And, we should pray that others will find His way as well.

Dr. Roger Sullivan