

The Witness of Anticipation

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!
—Isaiah 64:1 —

During this month we have focused on the transforming grace of God in Jesus Christ. Before he ascended to heaven, Jesus told his disciples, “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Let’s look back and recall some of the blessings we have observed.

The magnificent creation was formed by God, serving as his “first missionary.” We have life and breath from God, and he gives us comfort, courage, and conviction. We have forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ. God gives the gifts of work, rest, Christian leaders, and Christian unity. We are witnesses of God’s grace to others, witnesses of faith, of humble parents and loving children, of the power of Scripture, of the Holy Spirit’s work in the church, of the gift of humor, of thankful hearts, of wisdom that blesses, and of much more.

Yet, despite all these gifts, we long for perfection. We’re hurt and troubled by stubborn sins in our lives and in the lives of others. We grieve disasters. We bristle against injustice. God’s kingdom is here, but not yet fully.

Today marks the beginning of Advent, a season of anticipation. With Isaiah we cry, “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down!” When Jesus comes again, all will be made right.

Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus! We long for the new heaven and new earth you have promised. Until then, renew us each day by your Spirit. Let us be joyful witnesses for you! Amen.

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