

Third Sunday of Advent: December 11<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 35:1-2, James 5:7-8

Barb Brown

As I write this it is autumn, and God has been at work painting the earth with rust red on the dogwood, butterscotch yellow on the birch trees and cherry red on the high bush cranberries that surround my house. I look out and see the mountains that ring the valley in which I live and they are covered with new snow. As the seasons change throughout the year we can be assured that God is with us. In our troubled world there is much distress and injustice, but God keeps faith forever, and will bring about God's justice. As we wait during Advent to celebrate Christ's birth, know that our hope is in God.

Prayer: Good and gracious God, for those who are hungry and weak, help them to know your providence. For those who are afraid, we pray they will know your peace. For those who are bowed down, we pray they will be lifted up. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Action Step: When you are feeling distraught for any reason turn to God and "strengthen your heart, for the coming of the Lord is near." (James 5: 8)