

Dean's Letter, 15 December 2019

Dear Cathedral family, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I learned recently that, in monastic tradition, the weeks of Advent focus on four spiritual practices: waiting, accepting, journeying, and birthing. This week, Advent 3, is the week of journeying: journeying through your life, journeying through these times of upheaval and uncertainty and instability, journeying with God. Take time to be aware of this particular stage of your journey: where you are in relation to your work or career, your family, personal circumstances. Perhaps this is a time of transition in your journey: a child has written matric, a close friend is about to move away, things have shifted. Or perhaps your journey is going along a rocky road, or through a wilderness of desolation and loneliness.

As you become aware of this part of your journey, focus on offering it to God. Each step, each day, is a step and a day with God along the journey. I remember an old chorus from my university days, with the refrain: "we are the wandering, travelling race, we're the people of God." We are the pilgrim people. Always on the move. Following the star, the cloud, the holy fire. The journey through the wilderness from Egypt to the Promised Land. From Psalm 63: "O God, you are my God, eagerly will I seek you. My soul thirsts for you, my flesh longs for you, as a dry and thirsty land where there is no water..."

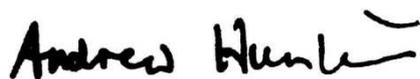
What are your experiences of 'home-coming' or of being a refugee or stranger?

"Life and faith is not about the destination; it has to do with our journey to the Centre – and our companions along the way 'We are all just walking each other home.' "ii The Centre is the heart and mystery of God.

The season of Advent is my favourite time of year: the sense of expectation and hope, the time to vision and dream, to hear and discern God's word and God's will, to pray "Come Lord Jesus, into my life". We look and pray and long for the coming of Christ, into our lives, into each moment. And we wait for the coming of Christ to bring an end and a culmination of all things. Advent gives liturgical and faith expression to our deepest longings, our hopes, and dreams.

The Church is the living witness to the hope that we have in Christ. In our worship, we look back in memory to the faithfulness of God; we celebrate the presence of Christ amongst us; we look forward to and anticipate the coming of Christ in glory. "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again". Our Catechism tells us that the Christian hope "is to live with confidence in newness and fulness of life, and to await the coming of Christ in glory, and the completion of God's purposes for the world."iii
"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

My love to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunt" with a stylized flourish at the end.