COME TO ME

ADVENT

SESSION 2

GOOD NEWS IS PROCLAIMED
Opening Prayer
Dear Jesus
You invite us to come
as we are,
when we are weary,
when we are in joy
when we are in sorrow,
with our hopes and disappointments,
our prayers and our burdens.

As we gather together
from different lives and stories,
we thank you for your presence here among us.
We thank you for your love which welcomes us
and for your invitation to a life-giving relationship
which heals and renews us.

Pour your Holy Spirit on us now,
so that in our time together
we may come to a deeper friendship
with you and with each other.
Show us God’s loving plan for us
and give us the grace to live and share your Good News
in our everyday lives.

We ask this in faith and love,
Amen.

Personal Reflection
What longing or waiting do you notice in our communities at present?: in your family or in your own heart?
Scripture Passage Matthew 11:2-11
John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?’ Jesus answered, ‘go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor, and happy is the person who does not lose faith in me.’

Discussion:
What was it about the ministry of Jesus that would make John understand that Jesus was the person he was waiting for?

Church Teaching
I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation. The renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light: as part of an effort to make them more open, to inspire in pastoral workers a constant desire to go forth and in this way to elicit a positive response from all those whom Jesus summons to friendship with him. EG27.

Discussion
- How can the Church offer visible signs of the presence of Jesus in the world?
- Which of the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, could best carry the gospel to others?
**Personal Reflection**
Where do I need the healing touch of Jesus? How do I need him to speak Good News into my life today?
Quiet time.

**Closing Prayer**

*A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah*
Strengthen all weary hands,
Steady all trembling knees
And say to all faint hearts,
‘Courage! Do not be afraid.
Look, your God is coming.’
The Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

Jesus our Brother,
By your loving ministry
You showed us how to bring about your Kingdom among us.
Transform us now;
deepen our faith;
empower our words and actions;
so that by receiving and sharing Good News
we might bring life to those around us.
Amen