

A lit candle in a holder next to a scroll and a bell.

DAILY ADVENT  
DEVOTIONAL  
FROM MONTREAT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Friday, Dec. 11, 2020**



**Isaiah 29:9-16**  
**Advent Devotional**  
**by Sally Woodard**

**Isaiah 29:9-16**

*Stupefy yourselves and be in a stupor, blind yourselves and be blind! Be drunk, but not from wine; stagger, but not from strong drink! For the Lord has poured out upon you a spirit of deep sleep; he has closed your eyes, you prophets, and covered your heads, you seers.*

*The vision of all this has become for you like the words of a sealed document. If it is given to those who can read, with the command, "Read this," they say, "We cannot, for it is sealed." And if it is given to those who cannot read, saying, "Read this," they say, "We cannot read."*

*The Lord said: Because these people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote; so I will again do amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing. The wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden. Ha! You who hide a plan too deep for*

*the Lord, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?"*

*You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay? Shall the thing made say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of the one who formed it, "He has no understanding"?*

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If we are looking for comfort during this season, we may have trouble finding it in this passage. However, isn't one aspect of Advent that of preparing to see ourselves plainly as we look forward to the birth of a Savior? The prophet is rather brutal in mocking his audience, saying that although their deeds are dark, they think somehow they can hide them from God. In doing this, he uses a metaphor of God as a potter and human beings as vessels made from clay.

One might even say the prophet is sarcastic when he basically says to the hearers, "So you really think that God can't see what you are doing? Come on, that would be like a clay pot telling the potter that he didn't make it." The people are acting as if God has no relationship to them. They can do whatever they want and not be accountable. Can we possibly see ourselves in this passage? If so, how does this speak to us as we prepare for a Savior?"

Sally Woodard