



Week 4 - Unlocking the Potential of our confidence in God

Many of the Psalms and songs of Advent speak of God's salvation being accomplished. In reality what was being witnessed were simply the first signs of this reality and it would yet be some years before the work of the cross was complete. But these early signs were enough for those who saw them to know and declare that God, in his absolute faithfulness, would bring things to completion.

We can now look back on those events that comprise the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus as a part of our realised history. Yet we live in a world where God's Kingdom has not yet fully come, and are faced with realities that though temporary, remain at odds with the values of that Kingdom.

But Christ's first coming, in fulfilment of the promises and prophecies from centuries before, give us the confidence to believe that the promise of his coming again will one day be realised. We can speak of God's Kingdom and walk in the ways of God's Kingdom in the here and now, and though we may be at odds with the world that surrounds, we are confident of the day when that Kingdom will fully come. This is a promise that no-one can take from us, and we do not need to seek success or status as the world defines it, we can simply walk in God's ways with a confidence that defies any present circumstance.

**We light this candle as one of celebration
Not because every evil has been conquered or every trial overcome
But because the mark of God's coming
Is indelibly stamped in the history and destiny of this world**

**There is a Kingdom that will prevail
Long after this world's struggles have subsided
A Kingdom whose doorway has been flung open
And the light of Christ points us to its threshold**

**We kindle a flame to show our desire,
That this Kingdom's dawn should be made known
To draw the eyes of those who long for a better world
To the place where every such hope can be fulfilled**

**We join with those who declare the certainty of God's promise
Revealed in new-born child and Servant King
And so we seek to pursue the ways of this Kingdom
Confident that its sovereign will one day come again.**

