



*'Since you have rejected this word  
and put your trust in fraud and disloyalty  
and rely on these,  
for you this guilt will prove to be  
a breach opening up,  
a bulge at the top of a wall  
which suddenly and all at once comes crashing down.  
He will shatter it like an earthenware pot,  
ruthlessly knocking it to pieces,  
so that of the fragments not one shard can be found  
with which to take up fire from the hearth  
or scoop water from the storage-well.'  
For the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, says this,  
'Your salvation lay in conversion and tranquillity,  
your strength in serenity and trust  
and you would have none of it.  
"No," you said, "we shall flee on horses."  
And so flee you will!  
And again, "We shall ride on swift ones."  
And so your pursuers will be swift!*

Isaiah 30:12-16

Strength in serenity and trust

## Monday of Advent II

We live in a world of stress, turmoil, conflict and controversy. It is a world in which humanity is threatened globally as never before in its history. There is so much to do, so much ministry to perform, so much need and tragedy, poverty and deprivation. There are so many causes to embrace, worthy projects to undertake, organisations to run, and family needs to attend to. Yet it is our experience that the busier we are the less effective we become and eventually the sheer pressures of all that we think we need to do overwhelms and crushes us. Life disintegrates.

The life that God calls us to is one that engages with all the issues around us. We betray our calling when we turn religion inward and 'spiritual' and private. Yet this passage reminds us that as Christians we engage with all of our life issues from out of a core of tranquillity. Our strength is in serenity and trust even as we confront and deal with the most obdurate circumstances.